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Latin America Report

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8 March 1984

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OFFSHORE OIL PROJECT HOLDS PROSPECT OF HIGH EARNINGS

Exploration Technology

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 31 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] **BARBADOS could earn as much as \$400 million a year from a proposed major off-shore oil exploration project.**

This was revealed yesterday when a group of British companies, specialising in oil industry technology met in Barbados and were welcomed at the Dover Convention Centre by energy minister, Senator Clyde Griffith.

The group, led by sub-sea consultant engineers MARIS, outlined to Government, the Barbados

National Oil Company (BNOC) and representatives of many local organisations, techniques for recovery of oil and gas off-shore Barbados.

It was confirmed by Mr. Ivan Bell of MARIS that the technology now existed for drilling to the required 6 000 feet in an area some 32 to 35 miles off the island, which has already been earmarked or identified for exploration.

The Barbados Government has already signed an agreement toward this end with Cluff Oil of Britain but it was noted at yesterday's meeting that the preliminary cost of putting down the production drilling system would be in the region of Bds \$646 million.

The consultants said that the preliminary estimates were based on the production of gas, li-

quified petroleum, electricity, menthol and crude.

As far as the expense of the venture is concerned, Senator Griffith said that Cluff Oil would be providing the finance for the production system because Barbados could not afford to put up the necessary \$600 million.

He noted that whatever hydrocarbons are produced there is provision, in the early years, for 75 percent of the initial production to go toward paying off recovery costs of the system. The other 35 percent would be divided between the National Oil Company and Cluff Oil.

Senator Griffith and BNOC have been monitoring the activities of the visiting British group to ensure that technology developed in the North Sea oil fields is available to Barbados.

Agreement with UK Firm

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 31 Jan 84 p 1

[Excerpts] Preliminary data indicated that Barbados maybe producing a range of petroleum products as a result of the deep sea drilling programme proposed for the north of the island. [as published]

The programme put on yesterday is a forerunner to the planned off-shore exploration to be carried out by the British firm Cluff Oil. Drilling will be carried out in a depth of 6,000 feet of water.

Last November the Government of Barbados and Cluff Oil signed a production sharing agreement for off-shore oil exploration. The area to be explored is 32 miles north of the island in an area of 403 square miles.

The agreement is a production-sharing arrangement, but before any sharing of profits can take place, 75 per cent of the production will be allocated to recoup recoverable costs and the remaining 25 per cent will be divided between Cluff Oil and the Barbados National Oil Company (BNOC).

The exploration period will be divided into an initial exploration phase lasting two years and optional second and third phases will follow after the two years.

Mr. Bell said that it was expected the field would have a lot of gas in the oil "so you have to recover the revenue from the gas in order to make the field worthwhile developing."

Reserves are believed to exist in deep water off the island's west coast where seismic and drilling operations are being planned by British and Canadian oil companies.

The companies participating yesterday were Marconi Avionics, British Ropes, B.P.P., Dunlop, Havron, I.T.M. Protech, British Steel, Pirelli, and British Telecom.

CSO: 3298/484

BRIEFS

RISE IN FUEL BILL--Jamaica spent approximately \$850 million on fuel imports last year as against some \$820 million spent in 1982. Of this amount, about \$170.21 million was spent on gasoline. In an advertisement in the SUNDAY GLEANER, the Ministry of Mining and Energy stated that Jamaica's fuel bill had skyrocketed over the past ten years, moving from \$44 million in 1972 to over \$850 million last year. The advertisement, which forms part of the Ministry's Energy Conservation campaign, urged consumers to conserve on the use of energy and warned that Jamaica will have to pay more for fuel in 1984. The advertisement, titled "A decade of international price increases," exhorted consumers not to "waste a single drop." It said: "When you waste fuel--gas or electricity--you are tearing up your money and throwing it away." [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 27 Jan 84 p 18]

CSO: 3298/496

PREMIER OILFIELDS COMPANY MAY DECIDE ON LOCALIZATION

Application to Government

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 9 Feb 84 p 1

[Text]

MINISTER of Energy and Natural Resources, Mr Patrick Manning, heard yesterday that Premier Consolidated Oilfields Limited (PCOL), a wholly-owned foreign company, is moving to go local.

Mr Mahadeo Maharaj, Managing Director of PCOL said at a Press conference at his Fyzabad office and in the presence of the Minister that regarding localisation, PCOL was working towards getting permission from Government.

He said PCOL was trying to get a vesting order whereby it could transfer the properties and assets for the old company to a local company.

Mr. Maharaj said that the matter was in the hands of the Attorney-General.

When asked whether the local company to take over the assets of the old company, was already formed, Mr. Maharaj said: "Yes. The company has been formed already and it is called Premier Oilfields of Trinidad Limited."

Mr. Manning gave some information regarding the size and scale of the operations of PCOL. He said the company had been talking about the drilling of shallow wells. Though cost of drilling one well was \$50,000 to \$70,000.

That was a small scale operation "But significant none the less in the industry in Trinidad and Tobago," the Minister said.

The Minister said it was the kind of activity they in the Ministry felt was necessary to encourage.

Energy Minister's Evaluation

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 9 Feb 84 p 7

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO:
PREMIER Consolidated Oilfields (PCOL) is very different from the other oil companies operating in the country.

"It's a small company and its production levels are much lower than the production levels to which we are accustomed with the other oil companies operating here."

That was stated yesterday by Mr Patrick Manning, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources at a Press conference held at the company's office after he met and held technical discussions with the company regarding its operations.

Mr Manning said that the nature of the company's operations can be described by and large as a stripper operation, "primarily a stripper operation" in the first instance.

He said that it is producing from wells that to a large extent have almost completed their decline and were producing at fairly steady rates ... but at very low levels.

Mr Manning said that whereas for example, PCOL would be happy to have a well producing at 20 barrels per day, or 15 barrels per day, he was not so sure that other oil companies would be happy to sustain a well producing at that level.

He said that it may not be economic for other companies to have a well producing at that level.

"Premier, because of its small size, labour force and small overheads, is in a position to produce wells that under normal circumstances would not be produced by other companies" the minister said.

Mr Manning said that "in my view it is carrying out a very valuable operation from that standpoint."

PRODUCTIVE

"In fact, we in the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources have been looking at the possibility of encouraging the development of very small companies that can operate acreage now held by some of the larger oil companies in the country."

He said if that acreage was farmed out ... made available to a smaller company with smaller overheads, "perhaps we will be in a position to produce some of the wells that will produce at low levels but which no doubt will still have a considerable productive life."

He said that was the case with Premier. "Therefore, you will not be surprised if I told you that the average production for Premier in 1983 was 319 barrels a day. And that was up from 303 barrels a day in 1982."

Mr Manning said that the company in 1983 spudded five wells and the status of two of the wells was still in question.

FLUCTUATING

He said, however, essentially an attempt was made to study and test in theory that the company had been looking at for some time in

terms of structural accumulation associated with oil.

"It has been found that wells have been producers at low levels, and they have contributed to the increased production overall."

Peak production of Premier for 1983 exceeded 400 barrels a day. Mr Manning said that he had been looking on a weekly basis at the production figures from all the oil com-

panies — looking at the production figures of Premier and he had been observing quite closely what those figures had been doing.

They had been fluctuating quite a bit but there had been a very steady increase in the production level of Premier Consolidated Oilfields.

He said that the company had itself been in a position to benefit somewhat from the tax concession.

CSO: 3298/504

OWTU'S WEEKES ASSAILS TEXACO FOR NOT LEAVING THE COUNTRY

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 11 Feb 84 p 7

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO:
GEORGE WEEKES, president general of Oilfields Workers Trade Union, has accused Texaco Trinidad Inc. of making no positive effort to leave Trinidad.

Mr. Weekes told Mr. Lloyd Austin, general manager, by letter dated February 9, 1984:

"Your company has lived off the fat of our land and even now when you are claiming losses, you are making no positive effort to vacate our shores because the Trintoc deal is providing you with, as the saying goes, "free money."

Mr. Weekes has reiterated his appeal to Texaco to leave the country "so that we can begin to rationalise our industry in our interest."

The OWTU leader drew Mr. Austin's attention in the letter to some point made by him (Mr.

Weekes) at the formal opening of negotiations between the company and the OWTU on Wednesday, December 21.

He told Mr. Austin: "In your address to my delegation you spoke about Texaco operations in Trinidad suffering heavy and prolonged losses resulting in the main from the tax policies of the government whereby your company is not in a position to continue its usual level of operations, etc.

"My stated position was that if Texaco Trinidad Incorporated was losing money, the company should cut its losses and win the goodwill of our people.

Mr. Weekes informed Mr. Austin that the OWTU is convinced and has argued that if the oil industry was the property of the Government and people of Trinidad and Tobago and re-organised, "then certainly it will become viable and serve as a base for diversification."

CSO: 3298/504

CARIBBEAN BUSINESS LEADER WARNS AGAINST U.S. CBI

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 7 Jan 84 p 4

[Text] Castries (IPS)--Secretary of a British-Caribbean group of businessmen has warned Caribbean governments against giving too many concessions to US companies seeking to invest in the region under the Reagan Administration's Caribbean Basin Initiative [CBI].

The warning came from Barbadian-born Secretary of the United Caribbean Chamber of Commerce, Colin Carter, at a news conference in Saint Lucia.

Carter said US companies investing in the region under the CBI would be 'mainly concerned with making profits', and would give little consideration to the region's development.

Carter was on a brief visit in Saint Lucia to discuss closer links between his London-based organisation and business groups in the Eastern Caribbean.

He said over the years the United Caribbean Chamber of Commerce had noticed a "pattern" whereby US investors "come in and exploit our tax-free holidays, cheap labour, and resources put at their disposal, and in the end, the candle is not worth the light, because it does not help the country or its nationals.

"I would welcome anything to help, but as far as the CBI is concerned, if the past ten years of industrial development in the islands is anything to go by, I consider that in the long run it would not be worth it", said Carter.

A total of 27 Caribbean Basin nations are eligible to benefit under the CBI, a trade and aid package which provides for duty-free access to the US market of almost all exports from beneficiary states.

Eighteen have already been designated beneficiaries, including most English-speaking Caribbean nations.

Private sector sources in Saint Lucia said British businessmen, long established in the region but with a relatively low profile, are concerned about the competition that could result from CBI-inspired investments.

Attractive incentives are offered under the CBI to US businessmen wishing to pump money into the region.

Some British executives believe given the poor state of regional economies and ravages of international recession, Caribbean governments may go overboard in accommodating US companies seeking investment possibilities, without adequately considering long-term national interests.

Commenting on trade between the United Kingdom and the region, Carter noted that these were mainly service oriented, particularly around the tourist industry, and including some shipping.

He said his mission was aimed at identifying ways and means of increasing trade. One initiative undertaken was to try and get more Barbadian manufactured goods into Britain.

CSO: 3298/483

1983 ACTIVITIES OF CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK REPORTED

Requirements for Economic Advance

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 26 Jan 84 p 19

[Text]

Caribbean economic recovery hinges on economic recovery in the industrialized countries according to a report from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) but CARICOM Governments also have a role in ensuring such development occurs in the region this year.

The report, highlighting the Bank's activities in 1983 along with predictions of economic prospects in the region in 1984, predicted that "If there is sustained, deep, broadly based and geographically wide-spread economic recovery. On the other hand, if the international economy does not enjoy a sustainable recovery then the prospects for CARICOM economies will remain none too bright."

The CDB said that whether or not there is

sustained recovery in the international economy, in order to respond and adjust to the current difficult economic situation, CARICOM governments will need to take positive actions during 1984.

These include the Bank said, taking steps to raise production and productivity and to improve the international competitiveness of CARICOM producers in food, export agriculture, manufacturing and tourism; encouraging domestic savings and directing or influencing allocation to national priority areas; and reducing fiscal deficits and borrowings from the banking system by improving the cost and efficiency of the Central Government, Public Utilities and state enterprises and making the latter two financially self-sufficient so as to free

resources for productive sector activity.

Other necessary "positive action" according to the CDB is "improving on regional goodwill and using existing and improved regional arrangements to foster the utilization of regional markets as a market launching pad for goods with higher regional value added; minimising the growth of short and medium-term external debt on commercial terms and seeking to obtain more concessionary development finance; and cooperating with regional and international financial agencies in developing and implementing reasonable and practical domestic development strategies, policies and programmes".

The CDB is also recommending cooperation with labour and the private sec-

tor in developing sensible national strategies, policies and programmes; making greater productive use of existing infrastructural facilities and paying greater regard to maintenance and improvements; intensifying cost-effective promotion for tourism and exports of manufactures; and creating an environment for the development of cadres of skilled persons, managers and entrepreneurs to meet successfully the production challenges of 1984 and beyond.

All of these recommendations, the CDB said, point to the urgent need for the formulation and implementation of a set of mutually consistent and inter-related measures for fundamental structural adjustment in the economies of all of the members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

Review of Loans, Projects

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 1 Feb 84 p 19

[Text]

The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) Board of Directors ap-

proved \$46.3-million in loans to 24 projects, in agriculture, industry,

tourism, lines of credit, factory shells and transportation during 1983.

This amount was 8.3 percent better than 1982 performance excluding

the special CDB Programme which ended in 1982 and had approvals of US\$12-million in that year when 25 project loans were approved.

According to a CDB report entitled "Highlights of the Bank's Activities in 1983 and Economic Background and Prospects", eighteen of these projects amounting to \$17.3-million went to the Lesser Developed Countries (LDC's), 3 loans amounting to \$2.9-million went to the private sector and eight of the loans in an amount of \$13.2-million were to national DFC's for on-lending to small farmers, businesses and hoteliers and to prospective students. Loan cancellations during the year amounted to \$3.7-million. This actively increased in 1983 and net cumulative approvals from \$388-million in 1982 to \$430.6-million at the end of 1983.

Heavy emphasis, the report said, continued to be on economic infrastructure projects despite the Bank's attempts to encourage borrowers to

apply for financing for directly productive projects in agriculture, livestock and fisheries, in agro-industries and manufacturing generally and in tourism. Scarcity of management and technical skills, depressed commodity prices and the effects of the international recession are some of the major reasons for this undue concentration on economic infrastructure projects.

Disbursements of loans and grants during 1983 amounted to \$42-million as compared with \$50.3-million in 1982. The decline was due mainly to the completion of disbursements on the Basic Human Needs Programme financed by the United States Agency For International Development (USAID); the slow implementation of many projects mainly in the power sector; and borrower difficulty in meeting loan conditions, in coming up with necessary counterpart funding, and in assigning competent management on a timely basis for the various projects.

Disbursements were made at a rate of 26 percent between hard and 74 percent for soft funds. Cumulative disbursements expressed in current U.S. dollar terms increased 10.5 percent from \$82.4-million in 1982 to \$312-million in 1983 as past loans disbursed in other than U.S. currency had their values in relation to the U.S. dollar falling by \$13-million.

A Unified Special Development Fund - the main Special (soft) Fund into which the Bank receives contributions from donors was established with pledges of US\$70-million and promised pledges by some potential contributors. An important feature of self-help was applied in the Fund as the regional borrowing members pledged for the first time to this resource (\$10-million). Pledges to this Fund by first-time contributors to CDB were made in U.S. dollar equivalents by France on becoming a member of CDB; the Netherlands, a non-

member; Italy, also a non-member, while the non-regional Commonwealth countries, Canada and the United Kingdom, continued to play a major role in such efforts by the Bank.

During the year the Bank negotiated a second International Development Association (IDA) credit of \$7-million to be operated on a trust basis to provide very soft resources to the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) countries. The repayment period on this credit is 50 years inclusive of a 10-year grace period and there is no interest payable but only a service charge of 3/4 percent per annum.

Negotiations on a \$35-\$40-million loan and grant package continued with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) during the year. The expected proceeds are to supplement the Bank's hard, soft and technical assistance resources. Discussions with USAID and other donors on the possible resumption of the Basic Human needs grant Programme for the Bank's LDC's advanced considerably during 1983 and it is now expected that this very useful programme will be resumed during the early part of 1984.

TRINIDAD-TOBAGO CONTRACTS TO RESTORE GRENADA PHONE SYSTEM

Increase in Subscribers

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 12 Feb 84 p 18

[Text]

TELEPHONE subscribers in Grenada are expected to be increased by between 3,200 and 3,600.

This is one of the benefits to be derived from a telephone improvement project to be undertaken in Grenada by the Trinidad and Tobago Telephone Company (Telco).

Signing of the contract took place in Grenada on Friday morning with

a Telco team headed by its Executive Director, Dr. Neilson Mackay, flying to the island for the ceremony.

Ray Smith, Advisory Council member for the Telecommunication and Postal Services who signed on behalf of the Grenada Telephone Company (GTC), said the telephone service in the West of the island would also be considerably improved as a result of the exercise, and also

service to Carriacou.

According to the terms of the contract, Telco would also review an existing contract between the GTC and the German Democratic Republic. Purpose of this review is to evaluate the full range of options available to the GTC and to report on the feasibility of each option in the context of Grenada's present and projected needs.

Praise from Trinidad

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 13 Feb 84 p 1

[Text]

A UNIQUE demonstration of transfer of technology took place when Trinidad and Tobago Telephone Company (Telco), formally agreed last week to improve the telephone service in Grenada.

Top officials of Telco, headed by its Executive Director, Dr. Neilson Mackay, signed a contract with the Grenada Telephone Company (GTC) for the project.

Dr. Mackay, in hailing the venture as a further step at the signing ceremony in the continued cooperation between Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada, said Telco was more than pleased to have landed the contract.

Based on Telco's own extensive operations at home, Dr. Mackay, said the State-owned utility felt it had acquired a wealth of experience, such as developing proper technical systems

and controlling financial resources, to enable it to serve satisfactorily the (US) \$65,000 contract.

Telco's chief executive said the contract provided for the supply, transportation, installation and the commissioning of a 400-line trailer-mounted exchange.

Telco is to train two GTC technicians in the installation and maintenance of the equipment to be installed.

CSO: 3298/483

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO WISCO NOTED

FL142300 Bridgetown CANA in English 2132 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, 14 Feb (CANA)--Barbados is worried about outstanding contributions to the West Indies Shipping Corporation (WISCO) by participating regional countries and wants to see them pay up the arrears of 3.5 million TT dollars (1 TT dollars; 41 cents U.S.), Transport Minister Vic Johnson said.

"This area is of concern to us, we feel that if the territories are to meet their obligations, it is necessary for us to be serious about our participation and pay our contributions when they become due," he said.

Johnson was briefing reporters yesterday on the outcome of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) transport ministers meeting in St Lucia earlier this month. WISCO is owned by CARICOM Government. Trinidad and Tobago was said to be the only one of the 12 participating countries not to be in arrears.

Barbados owes the shipping line 194,750 (TT) dollars. According to Johnson, "why we are in this position ... is because when the arrears were being tabulated it was discovered that they had forecast a smaller deficit than in fact materialised and additional assessments had to be levied against various territories."

He added: "Barbados was in position of having to come up with an additional amount above and beyond what it was declared to owe."

In the shareholding of WISCO, Trinidad and Tobago owns 40 percent, Jamaica 30 percent, Barbados and Guyana 10 percent, Grenada, St Lucia, St Kitts-Nevis, Antigua-Barbuda, and Dominica own just over 1 percent and Montserrat 0.237 percent.

Johnson said the regional transport ministers, who discussed WISCO's future at their St Lucia meeting, were unhappy about WISCO having to compete against national shipping companies in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, especially in the area of cargo.

Johnson said Barbados would press on until it was satisfied that WISCO reflected regionalism and survived as a viable organisation. The shipping company carried 64,000 tons of cargo in 1983, five percent of registered regional trade.

The Barbados transport minister said the regional shipping line was moving to get a larger percentage of the extra-regional shipping market. He said opportunities in Puerto Rico and Miami looked "very encouraging."

CSO: 3298/1125

JAMAICA, GUYANA SIGN THREE-YEAR FISHING AGREEMENT

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 31 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] Georgetown, Jan. 30, CANA

Guyana and Jamaica have signed a three year fishing agreement in a move they said is aimed at strengthening relations.

A government statement said the agreement allows ten Jamaican fishing vessels to operate in Guyana's Maritime zone using bottom trawler nets, gillnets and long lines.

The pact was signed Saturday by Guyana vice president Desmond Hoyte and deputy Prime Minister of Jamaica Hugh Shearer.

"The agreement will provide yet another avenue for co-operation between Guyana and Jamaica, in addition to expanding my country's fishing industry and lifting the nutritional standing of Jamaicans," Shearer said.

He said Jamaica shares Guyana's determination to cement the regional integration movement working through caricom (the Caribbean community).

Hoyte said Guyana saw "This agreement as a practical expression of the principle of intraregional cooperation."

Guyana fisheries limited GFL and Jamaican officials will meet shortly to work out the arrangements under which the ten vessels will operate out of port Georgetown.

Government sources said a percentage of the catch will have to be sold to Guyana but declined to give further details.

CSO: 3298/483

BRIEFS

CARICOM STAFF TURNOVER--Georgetown, Guyana, 11 Feb (CANA)--The Guyana-based Caribbean community (CARICOM) Secretariat says it is concerned over staffing problems which are inhibiting the execution of its mandated programmes. A statement from the Secretariat said it plans to make a comprehensive presentation on the subject to the next meeting of the CARICOM Council of Ministers, second highest decisionmaking body in the integration movement. "The vacancy situation, the extent of turnover--particularly of senior staff members, and the incidence of nonacceptance of offers of employment, are all increasingly worrisome factors inhibiting the execution of the Secretariat's mandated programmes," the statement said. It was issued in reaction to what the Secretariat said was an inaccurate story on the subject carried in the CATHOLIC STANDARD newspaper here 5 February. The Secretariat said no specific proposals of any kind were made to last month's council meeting here on this issue, and contrary to the press reports, no proposal for discrimination on the basis of nationality was made to the council. "It may be of interest to note, in relation to the recruitment issue, that while junior staff posts are filled locally, senior staff positions are recruited from all member states of the community, and in the past six weeks, four new members have joined the Secretariat, one each from Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana and two from Jamaica," the Secretariat said. [Text] [FL131622 Bridgetown CANA in English 2027 GMT 11 Feb 84]

CSO: 3298/1125

REACTIONS TO CABINET RESHUFFLE REFLECT POLITICAL VIEWS

'Leftist Control' Charge

Punta Gorda TOLEDO STAR in English 15 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] Amidst rumors and speculations that Prime Minister Price would shuffle his Cabinet because of the City Council Election defeat which the P.U.P. suffered, it was announced over Radio Belize on Monday that Defence Minister C. L. B. Rogers had tendered his resignation, and the Departments under his portfolio were shared by Prime Minister Price who took over Defence, and Minister Harry Courtenay who took over Home Affairs. In addition, Minister Said Musa gave Courtenay the Attorney General post, and Mr Price gave Musa Economic Development. It was not said whether Mr Rogers had also resigned from the Senate.

The Left Are in Control

Press reports that Mr Price was under pressure from the left-wing of the P.U.P. to shuffle his Cabinet, were denied over Radio Belize on Tuesday. A newspaper had "leaked" about Min. Shoman wanting Rogers' ouster, and another paper called for Min. L. Sylvestre dismissal from Cabinet.

In fact, what resulted was that Rogers resigned, and Sylvestre was 'demoted' in view that the Ministry to which he was switched (Local Government) weakens the clout he carried as Minister of Energy & Communications.

As it stands, the portfolios which normally carry a Government's active role in a country, actually where the power lies, are in the hands of leftists: Price, Shoman, Musa and Courtenay. And while this has strengthened the socialists, it has weakened the People's United Party, because of growing division in the Party's hierarchy.

More is expected to happen before Elections-84!!

Assessment of 'Move to Left'

Punta Gorda TOLEDO STAR in English 15 Jan 84 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text] The Belizean Government is in the hands of the P.U.P., but real power is now in the hands of four P.U.P. leftists--Price, Courtenay, Musa and Shoman.

Virtually all civil servants, professional, technical, skilled and manual workers employed by Government are controlled by the four leftist Ministers.

Internal security, Radio Belize, Defence, Police, B.D.F. and Establishment are controlled by Courtenay and Price. Teachers, Nurses, Foreign loans & grants fall under Musa and Shoman's jurisdiction.

Belize will witness massive P.U.P. indoctrination through Radio Belize, Schools, Colleges, Government departments, Sports etc. The Opposition will encounter stolid resistance in all these areas, for the brainwashed employees will be used as the vehicle to penetrate all levels of Belizean life to condition the people a-la-P.U.P.

The Cabinet shuffle will not improve Belize's dismal economic position. The intention is to gear-up for the coming Elections; and for the leftists who now control Defence and Foreign Affairs to enter into formal diplomatic relations with countries like Cuba and Russia.

If Rogers was hesitant to do this for Belize's defence (when the British leave) definitely Courtenay and Price will not hesitate to do so for the naked truth is that Belize has gone left.

Claim of Communist Ties

Punta Gorda TOLEDO STAR in English 15 Jan 84 p 2

[Article by Alejandro Vernon]

[Text] Like I had always said, Price is using the "appropriate period" that the British soldiers are here for, so that he can formalize negotiations with non-aligned communist countries who are willing to assist Belize with military aid, once the British leave.

To do this, he needs Cabinet approval, but there have been some set-back with the right-wing (Sylvestre, Hunter) and Rogers appeared unwilling to go with the left (Musa, Shoman). Thus, it was important for Rogers to be pressured out, and Sylvestre to be demoted.

With the City Council Election defeat, Price and his three Musketeers got what they wanted. The blame was thrown at Sylvestre because of "blackouts" and Rogers was raked over the coals because of rampant violence & drug addiction taking place in the country which the Police have been unable to contain.

The runners will explain the "meaning" of the Cabinet shuffle to die-hard PUPS who usually go along with Price's decisions, when they are made to believe that these things done 'in the interest of the Party'.

With this maneuver, the leftists have gained two objectives: to instill a much needed shot-in-the-arm to the weakened PUP camps; and the chance needed to formalize diplomatic relations with Cuba.

Naturally, the four powerful Ministers are not concerned with the economic development of Belize un-employment and the scarcity of basic essential items; nor about settling the Guatemalan Claim. Instead, they are using the Guat-Claim to justify getting defence from Cuba and other non-aligned leftist countries, and thus push Belize into the Soviet-Bloc.

Change the Man.

Cabinet Maneuvering

Belize City AMANDALA in English 20 Jan 84 pp 6, 7

[Unsigned column "From the Publisher"]

[Excerpt] The reason the PUPs took so long, until January 6, to choose the scapegoat for their December 14 debacle, was the fact that Mr. Price could not get a quorum for Cabinet meetings until the New Year because ministers were finding one excuse and another to avoid Cabinet in the last two weeks of 1983.

On Monday January 2 when the Prime Minister viewed the BDF parade at the MCC Grounds, all other ministers, especially Mr. Rogers, were conspicuous by their absence. The following day in Belmopan, the Cabinet fight began.

The fight lasted until the weekend. Our sources say that on Saturday January 7, the Prime Minister yielded to the left wing troika of Messrs. Courtenay, Shoman, and Musa who had threatened to resign as a group unless Mr. Price removed the unelected and embarrassing Mr. Rogers and demoted the corrupt Mr. Sylvestre.

Mr. Price agreed, but insisted that he be allowed to release the news in his own way. His own way turned out to be a nationwide lie--Mr. Rogers, claimed the PUP radio station on Monday night, January 9, at 7 p.m., was resigning "purely for health reasons."

By Tuesday morning, January 10, Mr. Sylvestre had already decided he would not accept demotion, and on Wednesday he inveigled Messrs. Hunter and Briceño into preparing letters of resignation. Along with himself, they would then need only one more vote in the House (along with the 5 opposition votes) to place the government on a constitutional no confidence basis.

But when they were approached, both Messrs. McKoy and Pech remained loyal to Mr. Price (Mr. Marin had taken a most convenient absence of leave from the country) and Mr. Briceño began to waver.

Called in on Thursday and read the riot act by the Prime Minister, Mr. Briceño withdrew his resignation.

On Friday, our sources say, the Prime Minister accepted the resignations of Messrs. Sylvestre and Hunter.

Other sources say that over the weekend Mr. Hunter begged pardon and deserted Mr. Sylvestre, whose resignation was to be effective today Monday January 16, 1984, at midday.

That is the position as it now stands. I have no sympathy for any of these warring characters. They are all millionaires and bandits. And while they claw and tear at each other, I see my people hungry and desperate in the streets. There is where, as a Belizean, my concern truly lies.

Charges of Rogers Shakedowns

Belize City AMANDALA in English 20 Jan 84 p 1

[Text]

BELIZE CITY, Fri. Jan. 20

The big loser in Prime Minister George Price's game of musical chairs is former Deputy Prime Minister and Home Affairs Minister C.L.B. Rogers, now awarded the salaried but meaningless post of "personal advisor" to the P.M.

Our sources say the former police minister's servant was bag man for thousands paid in each month as gifts by foreign merchants and others engaged in illegal activities such as PUP lottery, prostitution, and other rackets.

Without control of the police, Lindy will not be in a position to do much shaking down. There is great concern in the underworld because the patterns

of the last 18 years may be broken.

Harry Courtenay has the reputation of being somewhat of a "straight arrow" and if he tries to clean up the police force, as one has to assume he will, there will be an uproar. Not only will the special officers who have been on the take become upset, but PUP gangster favourites who have been enjoying immunity will raise a hullabaloo.

Our prediction is that Courtenay will try to clean up the mess for a while, but then he will receive loud and clear the word to knock it off. He might also find it extremely difficult to refuse the many gifts which pleased the former police minister so sweetly.

Rogers Suit Against AMANDALA

Belize City DISWEEK in English 27 Jan 84 pp 1, 5

[Text] According to a reliable report, former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and Home Affairs, CLB Rogers has instructed the law firm of W. H. Courtenay and Co. and Attorney Glenn Godfrey to sue the AMANDALA newspaper, its editor Mr Evan Hyde and proprietor Cream Ltd. for libel.

This most recent libel charge arises out of an article carried on the front page of AMANDALA newspaper last weekend in which Lindy Rogers was accused of various acts of impropriety while he was Minister responsible for the Police. According to a source, Mr. Rogers intends to go all out. It is not known whether Evan Hyde will back down, apologise and cut his losses, or whether Esquivel, Lindo and Perdomo will come up with the money to face any possible libel damages. The UDP treasury is supposed to be very liquid right now.

Blow to UDP

Belize City DISWEEK in English 10 Jan 84 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text] UDP leaders must be gritting their teeth and wondering at the political dexterity of Prime Minister Price and his ability to turn an apparently impossible situation around so fast that his critics are left with their mouths open.

Immediately after the announcement of the resignation of Mr. Rogers and the subsequent Cabinet changes last week, UDP Leaders started denouncing the changes as a take-over by communists. They demanded that elections be held immediately and the government brought down.

The UDP issued an official release that must be one of the most scurrilous attacks ever printed against a politician in Belize. They attacked Assad Shoman accusing him of having plotted the "overthrow" of Mr. Rogers and of being effectively in charge of the government. This absurd lie was made despite the fact that Shoman's portfolio was not changed at all in the reshuffle and that he never took part in any of the consultations presumably held by the Prime Minister prior to his announcement.

The tone of the release by the UDP is so low, that it will be hard for them to live it down, it is doubtful whether any individual among them will want to admit that he wrote it, so full is it of hatred and deliberate lies.

The problem the UDP now faces however, is that they jumped the gun. In their anxiety to exploit the situation created by Rogers' resignation they gleefully set off on a campaign of public meetings in district towns proclaiming the imminent demise of the government. In their concern to condemn the new government as "communist dominated", they resorted to singing the praises of Sylvestre and Hunter, whom for years they had attacked as corrupt and incompetent. Suddenly, they made Sylvestre and Hunter champions of democracy and whatever was good in the PUP government. They heaped praise upon Rogers, whom they had relentlessly attacked for years while lying that he had been pressured by "the Left" to resign.

Now what will the UDP say? They will have to swallow their own vomit. Will they resume attacks against Sylvestre and Hunter just after praising them to the skies? Will they continue to maintain that the government is

"communist dominated" now that Sylvestre and Hunter are back in, just after they claimed that their exit "proved" there had been a communist takeover?" [as published]

What will they now say about Mr. Rogers, who remains as leader of government business in the Senate and is obviously fully backing the PUP, as he always said he was?

And what can they say now about their infamous lie that Shoman had effectively taken over the government? If there were any decency in the leadership of Esquivel and Lindo they would publicly disassociate themselves from that blatantly false and wicked release. Since they will not we must draw the obvious conclusion. The fact is that the UDP is now in a bind, of its own making. Whatever they say now, however they try to extricate themselves from the stupid statements and allegations they made last week, they will forever be mistrusted by the electorate for having so obviously and deliberately lied on matters of great national importance.

The PUP meanwhile, emerges strengthened after this experience. Party supporters have had the opportunity to evaluate Sylvestre and Hunter's reaction. Their return to the fold must mean that they can never again say, with any credibility, that there are communists in the Party. This can help create the kind of unity, based on the Party's ideology as defined in its Manifesto which could once more make the PUP the invincible electoral force that it has always been. The Prime Minister has achieved this without giving in to any unreasonable demands or bowing to any unseemly pressures, and this has raised his stature in the eyes of PUP supporters and the nation at large.

By their conduct in this affair, the UDP has lost the psychological advantage that they had gained by winning the City Council elections. As was shown by the massive and enthusiastic meeting on Wednesday, at which all Cabinet minister spoke, the advantage was passed to the PUP. [as published] This was, in a sense, the first salvo in the campaign to contest the general elections. If the PUP can keep its act together, improve its performance and consolidate its mass support, it will be a difficult force to beat in any election.

The UDP has indeed suffered a double blow to the chin from which it will take some time to recover.

Counterattack by Right

Belize City THE BEACON in English 21 Jan 84 pp 1, 5

[Page One Comment]

[Text] THE jubilation in the leftist camp of the PUP after last week's firing of Lindy Rogers and subsequent resignation of

Louis Sylvestre and Freddie Hunter, is now proven to have been entirely premature. Sylvestre and

Hunter have been reinstated, with Sylvestre gaining enhanced status through his control of Broadcasting (including T.V.), Information, and Establishment. In the result, the only victim of Belmopan's game of political musical chairs, is Lindy Rogers. And even that worthy is now to continue as Senator, and has been made a personal adviser to the Prime Minister.

While it is true that Mr Sylvestre has been removed from the energy ministry, that is not nearly as earth-shaking a concession as it has been made out to be. The dissatisfaction here in the city with Mr. Sylvestre's mishandling of the Belize Electricity Board was such that George Price had finally to be seen to be doing something. And so as a palliative both to the electorate and to the left, Mr. Sylvestre has been replaced by Mr. Briceno.

But as any number of Orange Walkenos will attest, Briceno is himself known as a kind of Louis Sylvestre of the North. El Pulpo, or the Octopus as he is called, is so described for obvious reasons; and to place Mr. Briceno in Mr Sylvestre's stead as boss of the energy ministry, is in fact to ensure continuing control of that particular plum by the forces of the Right. Indeed, we all

ought to be aware of the fact that when the deal was struck for the supply of Mexican petroleum to Belize, Sylvestre allowed Briceno interests to act as intermediary and so earn a fat middleman's commission. The appointment of Mr. Briceno now, places George Price's seal of approval on the Briceno/Mexican connection. But it is hardly to be expected that Mr. Briceno who enjoyed such a profitable relationship with Mr. Sylvestre when the latter was the energy minister, will in the end prove any more acceptable to the left or to the electorate than Mr Sylvestre was.

The left's short-lived victory then, has been followed by the right's successful counterattack. George Price bows one day to neo-Marxist radicals, then bows the next to corrupt reactionaries. But his efforts to in this way preserve a form of coexistence, so that he may hold on to his personal power, is in the final analysis a kind of sisyphian labour. The uneasy truces are bound to be repeatedly shattered by the fundamental differences among his Ministers. Meantime the country will continue to suffer as the government lurches from crisis to crisis.

If there is one consolation in all this, then it lies in the knowledge

that sooner or later the final showdown must come. Let the rest of us hope that when it does, it will completely destroy the PUP as we now know it	- a party grown crazed, insensate and evil from a too long stay in power. The real winners then will be democracy and the people of Belize.
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Names Behind the Scenes

Belize City THE BEACON in English 21 Jan 84 p 2

[Text] During the dog-fight between the pup ministers speculations arose as to likely successors to the Ministries of Energy and Works of Sylvestre and Hunter respectively.

One name that kept recurring was that of Johnny Searle. Apparently he is still not to be ruled out so we may yet hear from and about him. We shall see.

The other name was that of Ralph Fonseca. It was believed in pup circles that he would be a good front for the leftist's design. How could we be accused of communism with a capitalist in our midst they asked.

Fonseca apparently viewed the situation carefully, especially after the devastating defeat at the City elections and decided "no go Joe." He must have reasoned that certain defeat does not make sense.

So he decided to play the role of mister in-between instead. After Cous and Hunger decided to swallow their vomit, he met with Hunter and Musa on Monday night to complete the uneasy "peace" plan.

This was followed by the do-nothing, say-nothing speech of the Prime Minister on Tuesday night and the nation remains shocked at the unseemingly behaviour exhibited in full gaze of the public.

View of PUP's VOICE

Belize City THE BEACON in English 21 Jan 84 pp 6, 7

[Article by Philip Goldson]

[Text] I read with great interest an editorial in last week's issue of THE VOICE under the heading "George Must Go."

THE VOICE is the official newspaper of the PUP right wing, which is headed by the Hon. Louis Sylvestre, Minister of Local Government. The George who the paper says "must go" is, of course, the Rt. Hon. George Price, Prime Minister of Belize and Leader of the People's United Party.

The editorial read as follows:

"Not that Esquivel is wiser,

Not that Esquivel has more experience

Not that Esquivel will make a better Prime Minister;

But that George must be taught a lesson,

A lesson he will never forget."

The Esquivel referred to is, of course, Senator the Hon. Manuel Esquivel, Leader of the United Democratic Party.

THE VOICE editorial is clearly saying that Esquivel should replace Price as Prime Minister of Belize. Since this happy event can only come about through the ballot box, then I am pleased to voice my support for THE VOICE and call on UDPs and PUPs to put our votes where our mouths are, in the coming general elections.

In supporting the VOICE's support of Esquivel I would like to go further and put on record certain facts for the benefit of THE VOICE and its readers and, indeed, of all Belizean voters. It is this:

Esquivel is wiser than Price. For one thing, Esquivel is leading a party which believes in certain principles, such as National Security, Freedom under Law, Parliamentary Democracy, Private Enterprise, Social Justice, and the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God.

All members and leaders of the UDP believe in and support these principles. Esquivel is too wise to fall into the trap that Price has fallen into and end up leading a party which is neither fish nor fowl. Under Price, the PUP poses as a Belizean fish (and a smelly one at that) and at the same time as a ruthless fowl which is always flying off to bring back foreign ideologies dangerous to Belizean way of life.

Next, Esquivel may not be as experienced as Price is in political trickology, but he has shown far more experience in leading a party which is open, aboveboard and completely accountable to the Belizean people.

Finally, Esquivel would make a better Prime Minister than Price, since he is leading a party and will be leading a government which unite matured, maturing and youthful Belizeans in a grand adventure of service to country and nation.

Price's PUP leadership is engaged in a competition for power, all hanging on to the Old Man at the top who in turn hangs on to them in the hope that they can all hang onto power a little longer.

Esquivel's UDP leadership, on the contrary, is engaged in a competition of service, each striving to serve the Belizean people in co-operation with one another and with their leader who is the accepted and respected first among equals.

Having said all this, I once again extend the hand of unity to the VOICE and its supporters so that in 1984 we may together bring about that happy change of national leadership which the nation so urgently needs and demands.

Text of UDP Statement

Belize City THE BEACON in English 21 Jan 84 p 7

[Text] THE United Democratic Party deplores the fact that while the warring factions of the PUP have been staging their coups and counter-coups, the urgent business of government has been going unheeded because of the instability which prevailed. The UDP also condemns the duplicity of the Prime Minister who insists on pretending that nothing unusual has been happening, while in fact the power struggle in the Cabinet was paralyzing the government and threatening to bring it down. It is the view of the UDP that the Prime Minister has violated the most basic of democratic norms--the obligation of government to account to the people, and right of the people to be informed of developments which affect the national welfare.

Finally, the UDP sees as irresponsible the assignment of the tremendous responsibilities of Home and Foreign Affairs to Mr. Courtenay, a man whose physical fitness for the job is highly questionable, and views the appointment of Mr. Briceno to head the Ministry which controls the

troubled Electricity Board as cosmetic and unsatisfactory.

It is clear to the UDP that the uneasy truce which now prevails within the Cabinet cannot last. The PUP left and the PUP right are irrevocably split, and the profound differences between them must soon result in the recurrence to open warfare. In the meantime the numerous problems of the country will continue to be neglected, and the critical economic situation will continue to deteriorate. The UDP knows that the vast majority of people regard both sides of the PUP as equally undesirable and dangerous. The leftists are clearly bent on taking the country into a form of political, social, and economic organization which would be destructive of our democratic way of life. The so-called PUP rightists have no philosophy at all, except one of personal aggrandisement. The PUP, in whatever guise, has become totally unacceptable. The UDP therefore calls on the entire government to resign. This is the only course that would be in the interests of the

country, clearing the way for elections and giving the people the opportunity to rid themselves of the scandal and burden that the PUP has become.

For the record, the UDP would like to state that a stencilled leaflet distributed last weekend bearing the words 'UDP Release' is not an offi-

cial Party document. The views expressed therein are in some ways in harmony with the official position of the Party, as expressed above, and was widely appreciated by a cross-section of the public, but it ought not to have claimed official status.

CSO: 3298/467/468

UDP RESPONDS TO REDRAWN ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES

Belize City AMANDALA in English 27 Jan 84 pp 6-7

[From 2-page spread headed THE UDP BULLETIN Vol 1, No 15, 29 January 84; customary identification as "paid advertisement not in evidence"]

[Text] The Party has been reliably informed that Government had decided to redefine the electoral boundaries of the various constitutencies in Belize with the hope that a great deal of gerrymandering will be done in order to afford them the advantage.

We have also learnt that the Election and Boundaries Commission is doing a census exercise country-wide in order to determine the population of voters.

It seems to us that because of the overwhelming support the United Democratic Party enjoyed in the recent Belize City Council it is obvious that they are now experiencing difficulties in sharing the pie in the city. Also we are satisfied that because of the support we now enjoy throughout the country, the PUP find it very difficult again to concentrate on any pocket of supporters.

So immaterial to the redefining of the boundaries the U.D.P. will overcome.

The PUPs are now very worried.

UDP in the West

The United Democratic Party kicked off its programme of public activities for election year 1984 with public meetings in the Cayo District. On Friday January 13, the Party Leader, Senator Manuel Esquivel, Party Organizer Mr. Santiago Perdomo, and Political Officer Councillor Hubert Elrington travelled to San Ignacio to address a public meeting. They were accompanied by Deputy Mayor of Belize City, Rodwell Pinks, and members of the YPF. The Mayor of Benque Veijo del Carmen, and San Ignacio Town Board members Eduardo Juan Jr. and Atanacio Quiterio also addressed the meeting.

The people of San Ignacio turned out in spite of rain and cold weather to support the UDP meeting, which was chaired by Mr. Rene Moreno, Mayor of San Ignacio.

On Sunday, Jan. 15, a public meeting was held in the Western village of Succotz. Members of the San Ignacio Town Board and the Benque Town Board travelled to Succotz to participate in the meeting which was organized by UDP warrior Mr. Merijildo Panti of Succotz.

Belmopan was the scene of yet another public meeting in the West on Monday, Jan. 16. Speaking at that meeting was the Party Leader, the Mayor of Benque Viejo, Mr. Carlos Leon, the Mayor of Belize City, Mr. Gustavo Bautista, Party Chairman Mr. Dean Lindo, and City Councillors Derek Aikman, and Hubert Elrington. The meeting was chaired by the Director of Organization Mr. San Perdomo.

This meeting was the first political meeting held by any party in Belmopan since 1979. The people of the capital turned out in large numbers, on foot and in cars to listen to the UDP's message.

UDP in Belize City

Friday night, Jan. 20, the UDP held a very successful meeting at the Court House Wharf in Belize City. The meeting was chaired by the Party Chairman Mr. Dean Lindo. Addressing the large crowd were the Party Leader, the Deputy Party Leader, the Mayor of Belize City, City Councillors the Hon. Philip Goldson, Carlos Castillo, and Dean Barrow. Speakers dealt with the very serious crisis existing within the government and the shameful behaviour of the Prime Minister in trying to hide the truth of the situation from the people, even though the gory details had appeared in their own party newspapers.

On Saturday, Jan. 28, there will be a meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Party. Among other items on the agenda will be the consideration of nominations for the post of Party Leader and Deputy Leader. According to the UDP constitution, such nominations must be made every biennial year. 1984 is such a year, and later in the year the Party will be having its Biennial Conference when elections for the Party's Central Committee and National Executive Committee will take place.

UDP in the South

The Stann Creek District was the scene of UDP activity the weekend of Jan. 21-22nd. In rain and cold Saturday night the people of Dangriga turned out to listen to a public meeting which was chaired by the Deputy Mayor of Dangriga Ms. Doris June Garcia. Speakers from Belize City included the Party Leader, the Deputy Leader, Hon Curl Thompson, the Party Chairman Dean Lindo and Belize City Mayor Gustavo Bautista. The Mayor of Dangriga, Mr. Theodore Castillo, Dr. Henry Anderson and Dangriga Chairman Mr. Calistro Caliz also addressed the meeting.

The following day, Sunday, the Party Leader and Deputy Leader travelled with the Dangriga Mayor and Deputy Mayor to the village of Hopkins to hold a public meeting and meet with the residents of the area. A large crowd of villagers came out to the meeting and afterwards stayed to discuss the problems of the area with the Party's leaders. As in other areas, it was found

that the villagers had sacks upon sacks of peanuts stacked in the Community Centre and no one to sell them to.

Sunday night the Dangriga Division held its annual membership meeting at which Party Officers for 1984 were selected. This meeting was combined with the Division's Nominating convention.

Two persons vied for the position of Party Candidate for Dangriga, Ms. Doris Garcia, Deputy Mayor, and Dr. Henry Anderson, medical practitioner. After the voting and the votes were counted, Dr. Anderson emerged as the winner. After the results were announced, Ms. Garcia pledged her support for the winner and for the Party, and Dr. Anderson expressed his appreciation to Ms. Garcia and pledged to work along with the Committee to deliver Dangriga as a winning seat for the UDP in the up-coming General Elections.

UDP in the North

This Friday night, both Orange Walk North and Corozal North Divisions will be the scene of public meetings of the UDP. The Party Leader, City Councillors and other officers of the Party will be addressing public meetings in Orange Walk Town and Corozal Town.

On Sunday, Jan. 29, the Corozal North Division will be holding their annual general meeting.

UDP in Belize Rural

Both the Belize Rural North and Belize Rural South Divisions saw UDP activity this week. Mr. Sam Rhaburn, Political Officer for the Rural North Division, travelled to the village of Maskall on Saturday to conduct a public meeting. Speakers included City Councillors Carlos Castillo and Frank Lizama. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Castro of Maskall.

The UDP Leader, Sen. Esquivel, accompanied by Assistant Secretary Jerry Nisbet and Mr. Ted Blease travelled to the beautiful island of Caye Caulker on Tuesday afternoon and held very fruitful discussions with villagers there. This visit was in preparation for future political activities at the cayes.

CSO: 3298/469

BRIEFS

UDP APPOINTMENT--It was announced from UDP headquarters this week that Mr. Rodwell Pinks has been appointed Executive Secretary of the United Democratic Party. As Executive Secretary Mr. Pinks has responsibility for the Party Secretariat in Belize and for maintaining contacts with the party through its district branches. The appointment of Mr. Pinks came into effect on January 3, 1984. [Text] [Belize City THE REPORTER in English 22 Jan 84 p 12]

CSO: 3298/469

SWAN DISCOURSES ON BERMUDA'S STAKE IN CARIBBEAN

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 17 Jan 84 p 2

[Text] A trouble-free Caribbean was "very much in Bermuda's interests", Premier the Hon. John Swan said yesterday.

Mr. Swan was addressing the International American Women's Guild of Bermuda at the Fourways Inn.

He focused attention on the US aid package known as the Caribbean Basin Initiative, from which the Island stands to gain extra convention business because of tax concessions US firms might receive for staging conventions abroad.

Premier Swan said the Initiative had to work to ensure regional peace and stability in the Caribbean.

"Trouble in the Caribbean can affect Bermuda in spite of physical distance," he said.

"Bermuda cannot remain indifferent to what happens in the Caribbean. Apart from the humanitarian con-

siderations, it is in our interest, in a very real sense, to ensure the Caribbean remains free of trouble."

The Premier feared that it would be a disaster for the institution of democracy if the Initiative failed.

"Bermuda's involvement in the Caribbean cannot, because of our size and limited resources, be a major initiative but in our small way, I hope that we can be of some help to the Caribbean by making available a tremendous array of talent that Bermudians possess as a people in areas such as tourism and high technology."

"Perhaps one day Bermudians will confirm that special relationship that we possess with the Caribbean by sharing some of that tremendous talent which has brought Bermuda untold economic rewards and social stability," Mr. Swan said.

Earlier he had dwelled on one of his favourite subjects,

the benefits of high technology.

Mr. Swan said Bermuda and America had become close to the point of the two countries being linked not only by travel but by family ties.

High technology had boosted those links, he went on.

"The future will hold a closer relationship between our two countries because technology will make communications between our two peoples much easier," Mr. Swan said.

"Technology, far from being depersonalising, can actually help bring people together," the Premier continued.

"The positive aspect of high technology is that it makes communication much easier and allows for people to be in touch with one another with greater ease at lower cost."

CSO: 3298/470

OPPOSITION MP CRITICIZES CHANGES IN SWAN'S CABINET

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 23 Jan 84 p 3

[Text]

Opposition MP Mr. Lionel Simmons criticised the Premier for putting a Senator in charge of the Ministry of Community Affairs.

The Hon. John Swan should not have removed such an important Ministry from direct representation by a Minister in the elected body of Parliament, the House of Assembly, Mr. Simmons said.

He said: "A Ministry that deals with such vital areas as human rights, small business development, consumer affairs and community education should be headed by a Minister who is directly accountable to the elected representatives of the people and subject to direct questioning and scrutiny by them."

Mr. Simmons, the Shadow Minister of Community Affairs, Youth and Sport, made his comments ten days after Senator the Hon. Gerald Simons was appointed Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs.

Community Affairs was split from Youth and Sports which continues to be headed by the Hon. Irving Pearman.

"The fragmentation of the Ministry raises many questions," said Mr. Simmons. "What will be the added cost to the taxpayer? Was the Minister so busy and over-stretched that his Ministry had to be reduced?"

"This latest move is another example of Mr. Swan's tendency to make it as difficult as possible for both the elected Opposition members and Government backbenchers to hold Ministers directly accountable for their actions in an elected forum."

According to the constitution only 12 Cabinet Ministers can be selected from the House. But even given the constitutional limitation it would have been possible for the Premier to restructure his Cabinet from among the ranks of MPs, said Mr. Simmons.

CSO: 3298/470

GAZETTE PREDICTS ROUGH ROAD FOR SWAN IN PARLIAMENT

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 20 Jan 84 p 1

[Text]

Premier the Hon. John Swan can expect a rough time in the House of Assembly today when MPs return for the first time after the Christmas break.

The Opposition Progressive Labour Party will be launching a fierce attack over the Bank of Bermuda takeover of Mr. Swan's deposit-taking business (see story above).

Finance Minister the Hon. David Gibbons last night moved to blunt the PLP attack by issuing his first statement on the matter.

He said the Swan company had made it clear they would not start a bank for at least five years, and possibly longer.

"And, indeed, given the slowdown in the growth of Bermuda's economy, the Government saw no room for a fourth bank in the foreseeable future," said Mr. Gibbons.

"The transfer of the bank charter therefore has little practical consequence at the present time."

Mr. Gibbons made no reference to the Parliamentary background to the affair.

Clerk to the Legislature Mr. John Gilbert said today's session was likely to be lengthy, with seven items on the agenda for discussion.

He added that many MPs would also probably wish to raise issues during on the motion to adjourn because of the long recess.

Slated for discussion today are the supplementary estimates for the year 1982-3 amounting to \$7 million; the Mermaid Rocks property acquisition; the Road Traffic (Approved Instrument) Order permitting use of the alcohol analyser; the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1984; the Private Roads (Improvement) Amendment Act 1984; the Bermuda Government Scholarships Amendment Act; and the Muslim Marriage Act 1984.

Mr. Gilbert said some of the items would be carried over.

SALE OF SWAN COMPANY'S BANK CHARTER SPARKS OPPOSITION

PLP Attack

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 19 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] PLP Senator David Allen criticised the Premier, the Hon. John Swan yesterday for his company's decision to sell its bank charter to the Bank of Bermuda.

The deal had raised a lot of eyebrows, he said, and should be a matter of outrage to any democratic institution.

"It makes a mockery of Parliament and its intentions that the recommendations of a joint committee should be undermined in this way."

He said that it was unfortunate that the man who had petitioned for the bank charter and who was going

to be the primary financial beneficiary was Mr. Swan.

The charter had been given to correct an imbalance in the structure of banking, he said, but now there was to be even less competition.

He also criticised the recently-announced prices of the Rockaway housing development and said he had forecast them during last year's budget debate.

He forecast further inflation of housing prices and reiterated the arguments made by the Shadow Minister of Housing Mr. Walter Brangman on Monday.

Government spokesman Senator Charles Collis said it was wrong of Senator Allen to speak of the transaction in terms reproachful of the Premier.

"He is making an allegation he cannot substantiate. I think he's wrong. I don't think that the Premier has done anything that is known or possible to know that is capable of reproach in this matter".

He also criticised Senator Allen's comments on the Rockaway development. He said the units were being sold at what he thought was 30 percent below their market value.

Demand for Probe

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 20 Jan 84 pp 1, 3

[Text] The Opposition PLP will today demand an official parliamentary investigation into the sale of John W. Swan Limited's bank charter to the Bank of Bermuda.

Shadow Finance Minister Mr. Eugene Cox gave notice last night that he will call for a joint select committee to delve into the reasons behind the takeover.

Government must accept the proposal to ensure that the air is cleared, said Mr. Cox. "If they fail to do so, then Government and the Premier — who should be beyond reproach and above looking for legal loopholes — will be under a cloud."

The sale of the charter, which is needed to open a bank, raises disturbing questions, said Mr. Cox.

John W. Swan Ltd was granted the charter in 1980 following the recommendations of a parliamentary joint select committee. The charter bill was opposed by several Government MPs in the House of Assembly. It passed only because of the unanimous support of the PLP MPs.

Said Mr. Cox: "There is widespread concern that the

intentions of both the earlier joint select committee and Parliament itself, which acted upon its recommendation, have been subverted by the sale of the bank charter to the Bank of Bermuda.

"We view as equally grave the fact that it was Mr. John W. Swan himself, then Home Affairs Minister, who personally appeared before the original joint select committee as petitioner for a new bank.

"And as the committee minutes record, he stated that the reasons for establishing a new bank included the need for increased competition in the banking sector and to correct an imbalance.

"Even though Mr. Swan was from the other side of the political arena, the PLP put politics aside to address the principle of creating a

banking environment that would be in the best interests of the broader community."

The PLP was concerned with the principle involved in the sale, said Mr. Cox.

Even if the sale of the charter is technically legal, there is still the question of the morality of Mr. Swan selling a charter he had gained by convincing people that he wanted to open the "people's bank", said Mr. Cox.

He also sold the select committee and Parliament on the need for the new bank to meet the needs of small business and to compete with the older established banks, said the Shadow Finance Minister.

Then after a short space of time, Mr. Swan comes back to say, "sorry we were wrong, the existing banks would suffer from competi-

tion and we are selling the charter to the Bank of Bermuda", he said.

Continued Mr. Cox: "The country is asked to believe, in full-page newspaper advertisements placed by John W. Swan Co, that the selling of the charter is merely for altruistic reasons, for the good of the country, and the circumstances have changed.

"Yet, when the original application for the bank charter was made there were four existing banks in the country. Now the former Bermuda National Bank has been absorbed by Butterfield's Bank and there is even less competition."

Mr. Cox was also concerned that the three top positions of the Bermuda Monetary Authority were all vacant while the transaction was taking place.

Call for Select Committee

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 21 Jan 84 p 5

[Text] The Opposition Progressive Labour Party yesterday called for a Joint Select Committee to be appointed to consider the implications for the public of the sale of the John W. Swan Lim-

ited bank charter to the Bank of Bermuda.

The committee, if appointed, will also consider the sale to the bank of the deposit-taking operation of the Swan company, which is owned by the Premier, the Hon. John Swan.

Such a committee would be made up of members of the House of Assembly and the Senate. A debate on whether the committee should be appointed is likely to take place in two weeks.

CSO: 3298/470

OPPOSITION LEADER HITS GOVERNMENT ON ISSUE OF FUNDS FOR AIDE

Query from Mrs Evans

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 4 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] Progressive Labour Party leader Mrs. Lois Browne Evans yesterday slammed Government for dragging its heels in providing funds to hire a political aide for herself.

The House of Assembly approved legislation to give the two party leaders an aide each at the taxpayers' expense early last year.

Premier the Hon. John Swan subsequently hired Mr. Raj Nadarajah at a salary of \$45,000 a year--but Mrs. Browne Evans has not been able to get any funds from Government for her own aide.

"If a PLP Government was acting this way we would be called to task for it," said Mrs. Browne Evans, who currently employs a secretary--Mrs. Laverne Chapman--on public funds.

"Since last September I have been trying to get the money. They won't even tell me the salary I'll be allowed. I'd like to hire a Bermudian, but I can't advertise the position until I get the money.

"That's where I am bogged down. It's apparent that it is very hard for the UBP to be very fair to the Opposition."

The Government spokesman responsible for the hiring of an Opposition aide could not be contacted yesterday.

"I want it in black and white from the Government--I want them saying that I am authorised to go out there and hire an aide," said Mrs. Browne Evans.

Swan Response

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 5 Jan 84 pp 1, 3

[Text]

Premier the Hon. John Swan yesterday blasted Opposition Leader Mrs. Lois Browne Evans, claiming if she hired a

political aide it would "constitute public funds being used for a purely political purpose".

And in the hard-hitting Press statement, Mr. Swan accused Mrs. Browne Evans of paying her secretary Mrs. Laverne Chapman with public funds since July 1979, "despite the lack of specific statutory provision for such payment".

The political brouhaha arose after Parliament's decision in May of last year to allow each party leader an aide at the taxpayers' expense.

Mr. Swan has already hired his aide — Mr. Raj Nadarajah — at a cost of \$45,000 a year, but Mrs. Browne Evans has so far been unsuccessful in her attempts to get any money from Government for her own assistant.

Earlier this week, the PLP leader accused Government of intentionally stalling.

But the Premier, in his terse statement, claimed Mrs. Browne Evans had already filled her quota as far as aides were concerned — in the person of Mrs. Chapman.

"It was never intended that the Opposition leader should have additional personal staff paid from public funds."

And in a ZBM television interview last night, Mr. Swan added: "In a way, you could almost say the law was being broken".

Mr. Swan said the Premier and Opposition Leader's Personal Staff Act was designed to "provide a statutory basis for the staff already employed by the Opposition Leader" — and to allow the Premier to have an aide of his own, to help with the running of the Government.

Prior to the Act, the Minister of Finance had no authority to make provisions in the budget for an aide for either Mr. Swan or Mrs. Browne Evans.

Mr. Swan said Mrs. Browne Evans had been sent a copy of the Bill prior to its presentation in the House of Assembly.

"This letter quite clearly stated there was no legal provision to enable Government to pay the personal staff already employed by the Opposition Leader," the Press release stated.

Mrs. Browne Evans had "not seen fit to answer that letter", Mr. Swan charged.

The Premier argued that an aide for the Opposition Leader would have a purely political function, whereas his aide, Mr. Raj Nadarajah, had to assist him with the "numerous responsibilities" of running the Government, not just with UBP matters.

"Given the very limited constitutional functions of the Opposition Leader, any enlargement of her personal staff would constitute public funds being used for a purely political purpose."

Further PLP Charges

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 6 Jan 84 p 3

[Text] The Progressive Labour Party last night accused the Premier of attempting to distort the truth by suggesting the PLP was breaking the law in paying the Opposition Leader's secretary's salary with public funds.

And in a statement issued last night, the PLP demanded a public apology from both Premier the Hon. John Swan and The Royal Gazette for printing "accusations against the Opposition Leader".

The PLP also said that if any law had been broken, it was at the instigation of Government itself.

The row erupted yesterday after Mr. Swan said Wednesday that a primary

purpose of the "The Premier and Opposition Leader's Personal Staff" Act was to regularise payment of the PLP Leader's secretary's salary with public funds.

Payment for such a salary would normally require legislative approval. But the salary had been paid to Mrs. Laverne Chapman since 1979 without any statutory provision. The Act corrected the technicality.

"It was never intended, nor was there any undertaking given, that the Opposition Leader should have additional personal staff paid from public funds," said Mr. Swan on Wednesday.

But the PLP has maintained that the Personal Staff Act which became law early last year specifically provided for a personal aide for Opposition Leader Mrs. Lois Browne Evans — in addition to secretary Mrs. Chapman.

And it was a complaint by Mrs. Browne Evans earlier this week that she had not received the go-ahead to hire an aide that led to the current row.

The text of yesterday's PLP statement follows:

"A public apology from both Premier the Hon. John Swan and The Royal Gazette is demanded by the Progressive Labour Party for accusations against the Opposition Leader which may well prove to have been libellous.

"In today's issue of The Royal Gazette, the lead article states that 'in a hard-hitting Press statement, Mr. Swan accused Mrs. Browne Evans of paying her secretary, Mrs. Laverne Chapman with public funds since July 1979, despite the lack of specific statutory provision for such payment.

"In a ZBM-TV interview last night, Mr. Swan amplified this statement by further saying, 'In a way, you could almost say the law was being broken'.

"Mr. Swan appears to have made a deliberate and unworthy attempt to mislead the public of this Country, and conveniently failed to admit that it was indeed Ministers of the UBP Government — Mr. David Gibbons in 1979, and Sir John

Plowman in 1981, who at that time was the Minister responsible for Government services and organisation — who authorised this method of funding the salary of the Opposition Leader's secretary.

"If funds were expended without statutory provision, and if the law was being broken, it was directly as the result of the authority of, and at the instigation of Government itself. It should be known that it is the Finance Ministry and not the Leader of the Opposition who manages such public expenditure.

"There appears to have been a calculated attempt made by the Premier to distort the truth and leave the public with the inference that the Opposition Leader has been mispending public funds. Nothing could be further from the truth.

"It is deplorable that The Royal Gazette failed in its responsibility to present the full facts and the other half of the story. But it is the Premier who bears responsibility for misleading the public in the first place."

The Royal Gazette agrees that there is no basis for any implication that Opposition Leader Mrs. Lois Browne Evans improperly paid her Opposition Leader's secretary from Government funds. The secretary was paid without specific statutory provision but with the agreement of Government Ministers. Payment from public funds in itself shows Government approval.

TAX 'BONANZA' FOR RICH PERSISTS, BRINGS CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT

Inadequacy of New Tax

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 21 Dec 83 p 1

[Excerpts] Government's plan to end the controversial tax bonanza for the rich does nothing of the sort. Owners of the most luxurious homes in the Island will still be paying thousands of dollars less in land tax next year — despite Government's promise to stop the "anomaly".

The controversy raged for months this year after some owners of less expensive homes found their land tax had been increased by up to 200 percent. It had been thought that the plan approved by the House of Assembly on Friday, with Opposition support, would dramatically bump up the tax bills of the super-wealthy.

But a detailed analysis of the figures shows that every single one of the owners of the Island's 318 top-rated homes will pay far less land tax in 1984 than in 1982. And they have already had a hefty tax break for 1983.

The Government proposal is due to be discussed in the Senate today and, if passed, will become law at the start of 1984.

After the outcry over such massive drops, Government came up with its new plan,

to be effective in 1984. Houses with an ARV over \$45,000 would be taxed at 7.5 percent, which would increase the annual bill of the Glebe Hill home by \$840—meaning it would still get a healthy reduction on the 1982 bill of \$5,761.

In fact, Government's new proposal means that not one of the luxury homes of Tucker's Town, Trimmingham Hill and Point Shares will get even the same tax bill as in 1982. And the 1984 bills are not likely to be increased for anybody for at least four years.

Finance Minister the Hon. David Gibbons admitted last night that the "tax breaks for the rich" would stay under the plan. He had studied ways to eradicate the anomaly but no solution had seemed reasonable.

Attacks on Senate

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 22 Dec 83 pp 1, 8

[Excerpt] Government came under heavy fire yesterday in the Senate during debate on the Land Tax Amendment Bill which was supposed to end the controversial tax bonanza for wealthy property owners.

Opposition and Independent Senators threatened to unite and withhold support for the Bill to delay its implementation date scheduled for January 1, 1984.

It was only when UBP Senator Llewellyn Peniston assured the Senate that Government would be introducing further legislation to clear up the land tax problems that a final vote was taken and the amendment passed unanimously.

The fiercest attack came from Independent Senator Arnott Jackson, who accused Government of failing to fulfill a promise to correct a technical error in the original Act that gave wealthy home owners substantial land tax reductions.

"This amendment falls far short of what I believe should be done to correct this anomaly," said Senator Jackson. "Let's take it back to the drawing board and look at it again."

Opposition Senator David Allen began the debate by applauding Government for "taking a step in the right direction". But he was critical of the "Band Aid" approach to the problem.

"Government has got to go back to the drawing board and do a complete restructuring. Those people in the upper end of the scale are getting off lightly," said Senator Allen. "Government is virtually giving the wealthy a subsidy."

CSO: 3298/471

PLP CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT'S VOTER REGISTRATION EFFORTS

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 21 Jan 84 p 5

[Text] The Premier's speeches about participatory democracy were nonsense while Bermuda still had a "totally inadequate" system for ensuring all voters were registered, the Opposition charged yesterday.

Mr. Frederick Wade (PLP) told the House of Assembly he was having to complain "yet again" about the registration procedure.

"I have seen one or two paltry adverts in the newspapers, but there is no comprehensive publicity campaign to encourage Bermudians to register to vote," he said.

The Premier consistently spoke of wanting all Bermudians to be involved in a participatory democracy. But, said Mr. Wade, one of the most important factors in reaching that state was having people registered.

"Last year our party showed our concern by taking this matter to the courts," he said.

"We thought that the Minister's efforts last year was a sign that Government had begun to hear us. [as published] But it may well have been another trick, because registration forms went out just before Christmas. By now a lot of them will have been misplaced over the holiday."

The Hon. Sir John Sharpe, Minister of Home Affairs, said that a draft voters' list would be published by April 1.

"Intensive publicity would be better in late January and February as a reminder to people that forms have to be returned," he said.

"I am quite sure that everyone entitled to be registered will be aware of his opportunity and obligation to do so."

CSO: 3298/472

PLP REJECTS CONTENTION THAT 'MAJOR SPLIT' LOOMS

Report on Manning Article

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 3 Jan 84 pp 1, 2

[Text] A major split within the Progressive Labour Party is now a "distinct" possibility, respected political commentator and author Mr. Frank Manning has speculated.

Election defeat eleven months ago plunged the PLP into its deepest crisis since the 1960's while the United Bermuda Party is riding its highest crest of popularity for a decade.

The comments came in an article written by Mr. Manning which appeared in the September edition of *Caribbean Chronicle*.

Under the headline A Triumph For John Swan, Mr. Manning analyses the challenges facing both political parties following the election.

Election victory forecasts a long lease on power for the UBP, said Mr. Manning, author of *Black Clubs in Bermuda and Bermudian Politics in Transition*.

He picks out the personal popularity of the Premier as a major influential force in the election campaign. Mr. Swan "Bermuda's most successful black businessman," achieved unprecedented personal popularity attracting young, upwardly mobile, black business people.

The PLP, however, face deep political problems. Said Mr. Manning: "To

many in the Parliamentary caucus, the failure to win in 1980, a year when circumstances heavily favoured the PLP, was traceable to leader Lois Browne Evans.

"Internal criticism intensified in the months before this year's election and eventually brought about the temporary resignations of Gilbert Darrell from his shadow ministry and Austin Thomas from the position of party whip.

"As required by the party's constitution, a leadership review was held within 72 hours of the General Election.

"Mrs. Browne Evans survived a challenge by Darrell, but only, her opponents claim, through her strong influence on the party bureaucracy and because of the shortness of time after the General Election precluded a realistic leadership contest.

"The rift within the party is seen in the conspicuous absence from its Senate nominees of Mr. (Eugene) Blakeney and Mr. (Arthur) Hodgson, both of whom have previous upper house service, as well as other prominent party figures.

"Given its own history of division and the general pattern among opposition movements in the Carib-

bean, a future fracture of the PLP is distinctly possible."

The PLP's popular base has been eroded, said Mr. Manning, noting that Mr. Swan had made inroads into the PLP's religious support.

But there has been another political shift in the ranks of the "black elite".

Traditionally made up of the professions — teachers, lawyers, doctors etc — the younger elite has now grown up in the technical sphere and in the managerial ranks of local and international business.

"Their political sympathy is with the UBP," said Mr. Manning. "Under John Swan's leadership this sympathy has been translated into active support and participation.

"This trend has allowed the UBP to propagate the notion that it represents the wave of the future while the PLP, as labelled during the campaign, is 'yesterday's people'."

Mr. Manning predicts that Mr. Swan "can remain in power for a while, unlike his predecessors who limited their reign to one electoral term".

Mr. Swan's longevity will be determined by whether the "precarious" unity of the UBP can be maintained and whether the PLP can make

inroads among white Bermudians.

"Mostly though, the fortunes of Mr. Swan and the

UBP will depend simply on whether Bermuda can maintain the enviable prosperity that its people take for

granted and that lies at the core of their political conservatism."

PLP Response

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 4 Jan 84 pp 1, 3

[Text]

The Progressive Labour Party yesterday dismissed as out of date a report suggesting that the Opposition was facing a major internal split.

And PLP spokesman Senator David Allen said that the party was already learning from the mistakes it made and which led to its February 1983 General Election defeat.

"The result of the election seemed to galvanise the PLP — you might even call it shock therapy," said Senator Allen. "We will never allow those shortcomings to take place again."

Senator Allen made his remarks in response to an article written by respected political commentator and author Mr. Frank Manning, who said that the 1983 PLP election defeat plunged the party into its deepest crisis since the 1960s.

The article appeared in the September edition of *Caribbean Chronicle*, and placed part of the blame for the defeat on the shoulders of PLP leader Mrs. Lois Browne Evans.

Mrs. Browne Evans declined to comment on the article yesterday, but Senator Allen provided an official party response.

"My first reaction is that his information is rather out of date," said Senator Allen. "It would have been more accurate a year ago."

He also said it was a positive development that the leadership of the PLP was challenged following last year's election defeat. And he added that the party had worked hard to revitalise itself.

"So much has happened in the last eight months — there has been a re-dedication of the principles that the party was founded on."

He pointed to the regrouping of the PLP Youth Wing — now the PLP Youth Advocates — the new PLP TV Magazine, a revamped Partyline newspaper, and the soul searching that had taken place within the party.

"A lot of meaning has been placed on the four Parliamentary seats that the PLP lost in the last election," said Senator Allen.

"Yes, the PLP had become a little too complacent, partly because it had registered a gain in every election since 1976. It was considered almost inevitable that the PLP would gain more seats once again."

"But we have had a tightening up of the party machine as a result of the election."

Senator Allen also pointed to the advantages that the UBP had in the previous election — including the advantage of calling an early election and a short three-week campaign.

But Senator Allen contended that the 2.7 percent vote swing to the UBP was not as important as some made out. "I think we have to take note of it," he said. "But a great deal more than justified has been read into it."

"The bottom line is that the PLP has maintained its bench mark support of 43 percent of the vote. It has not polled less than 43 percent since 1976."

Senator Allen suggested that Professor Manning was correct in at least one observation — that there was a new elite that has surrounded Premier the Hon. John Swan.

"They have put a new face on the party, but when you look at the substance of it, they are really extending benefits to the elite and not the people of the country," said Senator Allen.

"The substance of the UBP policy has not changed."

CSO: 3298/472

BRIEFS

ECONOMIC GROWTH--Bermuda's economy began to grow again in the 12 months to March 1983, with tourist spending reaching an all-time high. This is shown in the preliminary estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for 1982/83 released this week by the Government Statistical Department. The latest figures put the Island's GDP at \$903 million in fiscal 1983--an increase of 13 percent over the previous year. But when the effects of inflation are taken into account 'real' GDP grew between two and three percent compared with a drop of between five and seven percent in 1982. Visitor spending reached a new high with tourists forking out an estimated \$312.4 million. This reverses the dip in 1982 and exceeded the previous high of \$289.1 million in 1981. The figures show that international company spending continued to increase--but at a much reduced pace. The gain in fiscal 1983 was 6.9 percent and comes after successive increases of 35.6 percent and 20.2 percent in the previous two years. Expenditures on capital improvements surged to \$159.5 million--a gain of nearly 42 percent over the year before. This came from sharp increases in residential and other construction and higher outlays on machinery and equipment. In contrast, consumer spending of \$598 million showed a slight decline in 'real' terms. [Text] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 22 Dec 83 p 17]

WRITS AGAINST BIU OFFICERS--Three writs claiming a total of \$117,382.43 have been taken out against former top officials of the Bermuda Industrial Union by the BIU Credit Union and the union Co-op Supermarket. The writs were entered in the Supreme Court cause book yesterday against Mr. Eldridge Brimmer, former General Secretary of the BIU, and Mr. Noel Woods, former Secretary-Treasurer of the Credit Union. President of the BIU Mr. Ottiwell Simmons, Mr. Brimmer and Mr. Woods could not be contacted last night for comment. The Credit Union and the Co-op is seeking \$36,280.48 against both Mr. Woods and Mr. Brimmer. Individual actions are also being brought against both men by the Credit Union and the Co-op--\$10,527.23 against Mr. Brimmer, and \$70,574.72 against Mr. Woods. Mr. Brimmer resigned as the BIU's second most powerful officer last January 19 for "personal reasons". He has subsequently gone into private business. Mr. Woods resigned as Secretary-General of the Credit Union three months later. Neither Mr. Woods nor Mr. Brimmer has ever explained the reasons behind their sudden resignations. [Text] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 21 Jan 84 p 1]

BIU S AFRICA BOYCOTT--The Bermuda Industrial Union refused to let unionised stevedores work a South African containership which sought refuge in Bermuda

to repair damage sustained in a severe North Atlantic storm. As a result the South African registered ship Constantia, 8,871 gross tons, was forced to anchor in Grassy Bay where the repairs were carried out. President of the BIU Mr. Ottiwell Simmons MP confirmed yesterday he told Government that stevedores would not work the Constantia when it sought refuge in port on December 28. "We took the position that we would not work that ship," said Mr. Simmons yesterday, adding that the safety of the crew was not at stake. "We do not touch any South African ship or its cargo, which we consider hot cargo, because of the apartheid policy of the South African Government. We support the fight for freedom, liberty and equality of the black people of South Africa." [Excerpt] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 6 Jan 84 pp 1, 2]

PLP SYMPOSIUM--Shadow Minister for Home Affairs, Mr. Frederick Wade, yesterday accused Government of not giving enough publicity to voter registration. He said that the amount of publicity in all the media had been inadequate and that as such Government was only paying "lip service" to the concept of participatory democracy. The Progressive Labour Party held its eighth annual Parliamentary symposium over the weekend at the Castle Harbour Hotel. Afterwards PLP leader Mrs. Lois Browne Evans said that party spirit and fellowship had been high and she promised an active and invigorated Opposition for the coming year. [Text] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 16 Jan 84 p 3]

PLP HOUSING SURVEY--The Progressive Labour Party has released the results of its housing survey which formed the basis of its recent emergency housing initiative proposal. The results are simply the collated notes of 137 calls telephoned in to survey headquarters during the survey. Nearly all the callers tell of too high rents, congested living conditions and lack of housing. Several callers reported that they had been among the first to go to the Housing Corporation for relief, but had only gotten the "run-around" ever since. The single-most important issue among nearly all callers was rent. The highest was \$800 a month while the lowest was \$30 a week--but the latter was the amount being paid by a son to his mother while he looked for housing. [Excerpts] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 21 Dec 83 p 6]

PRAISE FOR PLP ACTIVIST--Senator Gerald Simons, the newly-appointed Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs, yesterday listed former Opposition MP Roosevelt Brown as one of the people he thought had made a vital contribution to Bermuda's history. Mr. Brown was a staunch Progressive Labour Party supporter and a leading civil rights activist in the 1960s. He left Bermuda for several years but returned to help with the PLP campaign in the General Election a year ago. He is believed to be the man Opposition Leader Mrs. Lois Browne Evans would like to have appointed as her political aide. Senator Simons was making the case in the Senate for having a public holiday in the name of American civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. He listed a number of local figures, including Mr. Brown, whom he thought had contributed to local racial integration. After the Senate meeting Senator Simons said: "Roosevelt Browne was active in the committee for universal adult suffrage. I don't know the man very well because that was before my time. The point I was making was that he was one of the people that made a contribution." [Text] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 19 Jan 84 p 1]

LEAD SMELTER PLANT INAUGURATED DESPITE INITIAL DIFFICULTIES

Installation of Karachipampa Plant

La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 7 Jan 84 p 1

[Excerpt] The Karachipampa plant is located about 7 kilometers from the town of Potosi. Its construction began in September 1979 and required an investment of over \$200 million.

It has a processing capability of 60,000 tons of lead and silver concentrate yearly. In addition to those metals, it will also produce tin, antimony, zinc and copper of high-grade purity. According to estimates made, operation of the plant will allow for total annual earnings of more than \$26 million.

Technology Selected

The Kivcet process, developed at a metallurgical research center in the USSR, has been selected for the processing of the multimetallic concentrates.

The Harris-Parker-Koll-Betterson process was chosen for the refining of the metals to be obtained, which will allow acquisition of metals of high-grade purity. The processes have been incorporated by the Klockner company for the installation of the plant, earlier verification of them having been made in a semi-industrial setting.

Last 30 November dry runs were completed on all metallurgy plant sections and equipment. In September installation work had been completed.

The supply of lead and silver concentrates for the Karachipampa complex will come from Bolivia Mining Corporation [COMIBOL] mine production and from private mining interests, primarily the smaller ones.

Recently the ministry of mining and metallurgy authorized the Bolivia Mining Corporation to take public bids, with financing, for the implementation of the Bolivar project whose production will guarantee regular supply of lead and silver concentrates. It is probable that in the first two years difficulties will be experienced in the operation of the Karachipampa plant owing to low production of lead and silver, but it is estimated that the problem will be overcome beginning with the third year of smelting operation.

Suspension of Exports

PRESENCIA asked the minister of mining and metallurgy whether the export of lead and silver concentrates authorized for COMIBOL will affect activation of the Karachipampa complex. Mr Carvajal said no, because that export had been suspended.

The Bolivia Mining Corporation had applied to the government for authorization to export 5,600 metric tons of refined lead and silver concentrates accumulated to supply the Karachipampa smelting operation. The government, in view of the state mining company's liquidity situation, authorized it as an "emergency" export.

The minister of mining and metallurgy stated that the suspension of that sale does not involve the export by COMIBOL of 3,000 metric tons of tin.

COMIBOL Mobilizes to Supply Concentrates

La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 20 Jan 84 p 9

[Text] Bolivia Mining Corporation [COMIBOL] officials informed PRESENCIA that the company "in no way proceeded arbitrarily in the sale of lead-silver concentrates."

They explained that COMIBOL has respected and complied with decree 19935 approved by the government on 8 December 1983 which acknowledged the need to sell lead-silver concentrates in the face of the state's inability to grant new credit to the company to cover its most pressing requirements.

COMIBOL officials stated that last year they requested loans from the government for the purchase of materiel, equipment, investments, and other things.

Meanwhile, they said, the company was mobilizing its production of lead-silver concentrates by getting a reserve ready for the Karachipampa smelting operation.

In October it again requested a credit of 12 billion pesos as an emergency and guarantee on its overstocked production; negotiations were carried out by officials of the miners' federation, joint board of directors and other COMIBOL officials.

During the meetings between the board of directors and the economic council, the signing of the decree previously mentioned was brought up as a solution by authorizing the sale of silver-lead concentrates.

They reported that COMIBOL had immediately instructed the San Jose, Quechisia, Matilde and Colquechaca firms to make the shipments. This action alleviated the overstocking which the producer companies had on hand and provided the opportunity to earn income in order to pay obligations.

Counterorder

According to reports supplied by COMIBOL officials, at the end of December a verbal counterorder from a high government official was sent forward so that the sale would be suspended.

Regrettably, they said, COMIBOL was unable to comply with it in timely fashion since the shipments were already in port. A high company official stated that this could not be interpreted as non-compliance and in no way had been carried out arbitrarily.

Supply

They stated that the current situation should alarm no one because within COMIBOL reorganization and the spirit of joint partnership, the company has security and guarantees that beginning in March it will start producing normally at the Karachipampa plant.

Lastly, they stated that there is no disharmony of any kind between COMIBOL and the Karachipampa company and no desire whatever to damage the latter because both are joint ventures.

Official Disagreement Concerning Exports

La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 19 Jan 84 p 3

[Text] While the minister of mining and metallurgy maintains that he has ordered the non-implementation of the export of a significant consignment of lead and silver concentrates, the undersecretary in that ministry says that such a sale abroad will have no adverse effect on the Karachipampa metallurgy complex, implying that the operation will be carried out.

According to the national press office, Minister Carlos Carvajal has reportedly also announced that he has requested the resignation of the general manager of COMIBOL for persisting in exporting these ores when they were essential to the plant in question. This statement was issued in Potosí on Tuesday.

Undersecretary Ivan Zegada adds that the opening of the Karachipampa complex was 'symbolic' and will start producing within 3 months, a period in which COMIBOL will be in a position to provide normal supply of lead-silver ores to the smelting operation cited.

This official reported further that as things now stand the Karachipampa plant's processing capability will be 80 percent utilized and that supply will be programmed in line with COMIBOL's lead-silver production.

9436

CSO: 3348/244

BENEFITS OF INCLUSION IN CBI NOTED, PROSPECTS HAILED

Road Town THE ISLAND SUN in English 21 Jan 84 p 15

[Editorial]

[Text]

The British Virgin Islands which were recently designated as a beneficiary country under the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act which was passed by the United States Congress about two years ago on recommendation of President Reagan, is something from which the BVI, as well as other Caribbean countries designated as members of the Plan, will receive encouragement and promotion of their economies, by permitting products produced or made locally to be shipped to the United States free of duty. The U.S. Act excludes from such privileges Textiles which are subject to textile agreements, and includes fabrics and items woven or made from such materials. However, there is a long range of other products which are duty free. It would seem that agricultural produce is one of the main incentives, and a number of the participating Caribbean countries have immediate means, with consideration potential in expanding in this field and capitalizing on the Plan.

The BVI, it seems to us, is at the bottom of the barrel with regard to shipment of agricultural products to the United States, and would have to enlarge its present farming activities, which, as an initiative would need more help from the Government. The Caribbean Basin Plan also provides incentives in the establishment of small industries, and such products may be shipped to the U.S. Free of Duty. We have no knowledge at this time whether or not the U.S. Virgin Islands, for the purpose of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act, are considered part of the United States. If it is, it would, of course, be one of our closest markets. As in by-gone years it would be our main trading contact, and of considerable value in line with the Caribbean Basin Plan.

Now that the BVI has been accepted as a member of the Caribbean Basin Development Plan, a thorough study by the Government, or a Committee, should go into all phases of this matter post haste.

We must congratulate the new Chief Minister for his contact with U.S. Ambassador Broch, as well as the former Government which was also pursuing the course, at a time when President Reagan's Administration gave hardly any consideration in having the British Virgin Islands as part of the Caribbean Basin Initiative. We are happy for the change

of thought, knowing that the BVI is also in need of economic encouragement and help. It was, indeed, good tidings to hear Ambassador Broch say to our New Chief Minister in his letter of 3rd January, 1984, that he was "pleased to note the efforts of the British Virgin Islands Government through improved infrastructure and strengthened entrepreneurial skills of the Commercial Section."

CSO: 3298/488

DEBATE UNDER WAY ON PROPOSED SECURITY LEGISLATION

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 19 Jan 84 p 4

[Article by Peter Richards]

[Text] **ROSEAU, Dominica — With an eye on Grenada, and with itself having repulsed two alleged attempts to violently remove it from office, the Eugenia Charles administration has put two pieces of proposed security legislation before parliament, one of which introduces hanging as a penalty for treason.**

According to the Charles regime, "the Treason Act" and the "State Security Act" are aimed at safeguarding parliamentary democracy, ensuring the fundamental rights and freedoms of its citizens as enshrined in the constitution.

But the opposition Democratic Labour Party of former Prime Minister Oliver Seraphine disagrees. In a statement last weekend it said:

"The labour party views with alarm the introduction of a treason act which constitutes a threat to the existence of genuine democratic opposition in the state and a breach of the constitutional rights of the citizens of the Commonwealth of Dominica."

The party, in a rambling statement, did not say how the rights of Dominicans would be breached.

In a white paper on the "Treason Act" Attorney General Ronan David noted that treason has always been considered to

be the most "heinous offence against society," since the dawn of civilisation, and that consequently the penalty meted out to persons convicted of the offence was "inevitably severe".

The bill received its first reading in parliament in November and is due to be debated this month. It seeks to ensure the protection of the state, the constitution, the government and parliament of the state by making it an offence, punishable by death for any person who owes allegiance to the state to form an intention to levy war against the state or to overthrow the government, or constitution by force of arms.

"It is an act of war against the people of Dominica to overthrow or attempt to overthrow the lawfully constituted government of the state by force of arms. It is also an act of war against the people of this country to forcibly subject them to the obedience of any type of totalitarian government. Any such act will constitute the offence of treason", David explained.

Treason is originally a common law offence relating to the British monarchy, to which Dominica owed allegiance until its independence in November 1978.

David said that though up to then treason was part of the legal system "it became uncertain whether the common law offence continued to be part of our legal system subsequent to the attainment of independence because of its traditional relationship with the British crown."

When the island became independent it severed all monarchical ties with Britain, and the allegiance which Dominicans

formerly owed to the British crown were automatically transferred to the head of state here.

"It follows therefore that this area of the law in its application to Dominica as an independent state (republic) must be made certain and unambiguous by the enactment of an appropriate act of the parliament of Dominica", David told parliament last November.

The new bill will also provide for other offences similar to, but not exactly the same as treason, punishable by life imprisonment and the lesser offence of misprison (criminal concealment) of treason.

Under its definition of misprison of treason, the proposed legislation notes that any person who knows of treason and does not forthwith reveal the same to a judge or magistrate is guilty of misprison of treason "and being convicted shall suffer such punishment by way of imprisonment and fine as the court shall award."

But it notes that "no person shall be indicted or tried for, or convicted of treason or misprison of treason, but upon the oath of two lawful witnesses."

Under the treason act any person charged with an offence shall not be admitted bail, notwithstanding the provisions of any other written law to the contrary.

The state security act outlines provisions to deal with espionage and other activities "prejudicial to the interest of the state."

This bill provides for heavy punishment for persons convicted of any offence relating to state security, as well as outlining areas that the authorities deem to be prohibited places —

for instance any work place of defence, arsenal, telegraph or signal station, any camp, barracks or place where prisoners of war or internees are detained.

The act provides for a maximum jail sentence of 14 years for any person who makes a sketch, plan photograph, cipher, note document or article that is likely to be useful to any enemy or a foreign power and is deemed prejudicial to the safety or defence of the country.

The bill notes that it is not necessary to show that any accused person was guilty of a particular act tending to show a purpose intended to be prejudicial to the safety or defence of the state."

The proposed legislation also deals with persons knowingly harbouring spies, or harbouring someone he has reasonable grounds for supposing to be a spy. In this case on conviction the accused is liable to five years maximum jail sentence.

SEARCH

It also provides for wide areas of search of any premises, as well as making it illegal for persons to be wearing uniforms designated to official bodies such as the police, or army.

But perhaps the area likely to cause some amount of resentment by parliamentarians and even the public is the clause in the legislation giving persons the legal right to arrest another without a warrant.

Under the proposed act a person may without a warrant arrest another individual if that person thinks "there is immediate danger that that other person will commit or attempt to commit an offence against this act."

Section 11 (6) of the security bill states, "No action lies against the state, or a public officer or any other person in respect of any arrest or detention made in

good faith in pursuance of this section."

The Labour Party has said it would seek necessary redress through constitutional means to remove "the yoke of bondage from the necks of all citizens of Dominica. It said it would seek worldwide attention to what it considered as moves to suppress democracy here.

The DLP's deputy leader Patrick John, Seraphine's predecessor as prime minister, is on bail awaiting a privy council decision related to charges of plotting to overthrow Charles by force of arms. A high court judge here freed him of the charge, but following a successful state appeal, a retrial was ordered.

John has since appealed against that decision to the privy council in Britain.

Last year a high court judge sentenced six former soldiers to death for the murder of a policeman during an alleged attempt to stage a coup. (CANA)

CSO: 3298/474

REVIEW OF CURRENT OPPOSITION EFFORTS TO JOIN FORCES

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 4 Feb 84 p 10

[Text]

ROSEAU, DOMINICA: Opposition parties here are finding it difficult to reach agreement on a joint strategy for the next general elections, constitutionally due in 1985, but expected them to be called this year.

Earlier statements from the three parties — The Dominica Labour Party (DLP), The United Dominica Labour Party (UDLP) and the left-leaning Dominica Liberation Movement Alliance (DLM) — suggested that they were burying the hatchet to present a united front against Prime Minister Eugenia Charles' Dominica Freedom Party (DFP).

One of the key suggestions was a joint selection of candidates, but at a news conference last month former Prime Minister and leader of the DLP, Oliver Seraphine, hinted that his party was now seeking to contest all 21 seats at stake in the elections.

Seraphine made it plain that he was now rethinking an earlier decision to enter into an electoral accommodation with the pro-Cuba Alliance in light of the events in Grenada last October, saying "We certainly will have to look at that situation again."

Grenada's leftwing New Jewel Movement (NJM) Government was split by a power struggle, then ousted by a military coup. The Junta was quickly toppled in a U.S.-led invasion last October.

Former Finance Minister Michael Douglas, who heads the UDLP, does not seem to hold out much hope for the group forming an alliance, against the Freedom Party.

"It would be extremely difficult to unseat the ruling party at

the next general elections and every sensible politician realises that. Those who don't are political imbeciles," he said.

The Freedom Party stood a good chance of winning because of the wide support for its backing of the military intervention in Grenada, a recently-started road programme, "and other things taking place here," Douglas said.

It would need all the electoral accommodation efforts of the opposition to unseat the Government, he remarked.

"I don't think unity is possible so that we will have to look at an electoral accommodation," says Douglas, who was set rules about such an accommodation.

For starters, Douglas says that former Prime Minister Patrick John, deputy DLP leader, "must not in another Government of labour be allowed the latitudes of tomfoolery he displayed in the 1975-78 period."

Douglas has also said that the accommodation must be based on a minimum labour

working programme which would have to be devoid of "nonsenses" like "Ku Klux Klan, surface to air missiles and bogus arms build-up."

Government officials here claimed that the Opposition had recruited Ku Klux Klansmen to help it topple Miss Charles. The DLP recently claimed that the United States was supplying Dominica with sophisticated weaponry including surface-to-air missiles — a charge the Government rejected.

The DLP has remained silent on the alleged arms deal even though stepping up calls for opposition unity.

"Our party takes the view that the broadest possible opposition must be formed, uniting all the opposition parties and other individuals or independents in opposition to the Freedom Party," the party said.

The party also said that there were some people who felt that "Labour alone can do it."

That is why our party has campaigned round the country for unity of the opposition forces in the con-

text of an electoral accommodation," it added.

"This is the only practical course to save Dominicans from further hardships under another five year dictatorship of the Freedom Party. We must all work to build a true peoples opposition."

But political observers here say the credibility of the DLM has been eroded by last October's events in Grenada, which indicated the state of the economy had concentrated on an arms buildup and had been planning austerity programmes.

They have also noted the decline in political meetings by the DLM since the Grenada crisis and its "just about total silence" on various domestic issues.

In the meantime, Seraphine seems eager to test his electoral strength, calling on the Government to hold a by-election in the Salisbury constituency in the western part of the island.

The DLP has charged that the parliamentary representative

for that constituency Dennis John, a Junior Minister has on many occasions deserted his constituents by leaving the island for lengthy periods

"We believe that in the interest of parliamentary democracy the Government must immediately set into motion the process of a by election" said Seraphine adding that

the election should serve as a test of the popularity of his party and of the Freedom Party Under Dominica's laws an M.P. missing three consecutive parliamentary sessions

without an excuse is automatically dismissed While the Government has not replied to the DLP call for a by-election it was indicated that it is ready to face the full electorate (CANA)

CSO: 3298/489

REPORT ON KEY BANANA INDUSTRY, AID ASSISTANCE

FL182345 Bridgetown CANA in English 2205 GMT 18 Jan 84

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, 18 Jan (CANA)--The Dominica banana industry recorded a four million dollar (one E.C. dollar; 37 cents U.S.) increase in sales last year over 1982, it was officially announced here today.

General manager of the local industry here, Eddison James, told a Rotary luncheon that in 1983 Dominica sold 28,500 tons of bananas on the United Kingdom market, earning 28 million dollars.

In the previous year the association sold 26,500 tons of fruit to the United Kingdom with income amounting to 24 million dollars.

James said that, with the association now embarking on a number of plans for improving the quality of fruit, he anticipated that 1984 sales would be 10 percent higher than this year's.

"We are mindful of the need to improve on the quality of the fruit," James told Rotarians, pointing out that over the past few months Dominica had made significant strides in this sphere.

James said Dominica was now benefitting from a United States Agency for International Development (USAID) multimillion dollar assistance programme.

The industry executive said that already 354,000 dollars had been received by the association for the purchase of leaf spot disease-control chemicals and that more funds were expected in the coming year.

The USAID package of 4.7 million dollars calls for a reorganisation of the debt-ridden banana industry.

Officials here said that the necessary legislation to permit Dominica to benefit from such a package must be passed in parliament here by April this year.

There will be a suspension of funds if the legislation is not passed by the deadline, James said.

The package was rejected by banana growers at a special meeting some months ago, but will be accepted by government which considers the money necessary for the survival of the industry.

Bananas account for 70 percent of Dominica's total foreign exchange and James warned "if the industry does not survive...the country will not survive."

He said that the local association was still discussing with government the reorganisation plans for the industry and that recommendations have been put to the administration.

CSO: 3298/1123

BRIEFS

CHARLES LEAVES FOR BARBADOS--Roseau, Dominica, 19 Jan (CANA)--Dominica's Prime Minister Eugenia Charles left here today for Barbados for talks with a group of United States businessmen on the possibility of getting them to invest in local hydro and geothermal energy projects. Miss Charles will spend two days meeting with the group headed by Sam Setner of the Inter North Energy Company of the United States. From Barbados Miss Charles will travel to St Kitts for the inaugural meeting of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB?). The bank set up just under a year ago serves the member states of the sub regional Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). No agenda for the St Kitts meeting has been released here, but Miss Charles is due back in the state on Saturday. [Text] [FL192218 Bridgetown CANA in English 2020 GMT 19 Jan 84]

EEC LOAN--Roseau, Dominica, 8 Feb (CANA)--Dominica is to receive 50,000 dollars (U.S.) in aid from the European Economic Community (EEC) for a project involving the cultivation of ornamental plants, it has been officially announced here. A government statement said four acres of land would be cultivated to produce a limited variety of high quality ornamental plant cuttings for export to Europe. The statement said that a Guadeloupe-based firm will assist Dominica with the marketing of the plants. The flori-culture project is expected to begin here soon, the statement said, but it gave no date. [Text] [FL081545 Bridgetown CANA in English 1440 GMT 8 Feb 84 FL]

CANADIAN GRANT--Roseau, Dominica, 13 Feb (CANA)--The Dominica Government said today the Canadian Treasury Board had approved a grant of 11.5 million (Can) dollars for a major road project in the north of the island. A statement said that reconstruction work on the 38 kilometers of road will start in May and that under the contract awarded to a Canadian firm, several bridges along the route will be replaced. Work is expected to be completed within 16 months, the statement said. The project is part of the overall plan of the government to rehabilitate almost 100 miles of road. [Text] [Bridgetown CANA in English 1758 GMT 13 Feb 84 FL]

CSO: 3298/1123

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES ON VIOLENCE, CORRUPTION

San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 25, 26 Jan 84

[Two-part article by Jorge Armando Contreras]

[25 Jan 84 p 32]

[Text] For the first time a presidential candidate has talked about the touchy issue of missing persons, demanding that murder and "disappearances" not be resorted to to prevent people from voicing their ideas.

Rene Fortin Magana, the former dean of the Law Department, a former member of the 1960 Revolutionary Junta that overthrew the government of Col Jose Maria Lemus and now the presidential candidate of Democratic Action (AD), was one of the participants at the round table that the Center for Juridical Studies organized last night at the El Salvador Sheraton Hotel.

The other participants were Mr Francisco Quinonez Avila from the PPS [Salvadoran Popular Party], Col Dr Roberto Escobar Garcia from PAISA, Jose Napoleon Duarte from Christian Democracy, Dr Francisco Jose Guerrero from the PCN [National Conciliation Party] and Maj Roberto D'Aubuisson from ARENA.

The organizers selected the following issues for the panel discussion: "Justice in El Salvador," "Corruption Throughout Public Life," "Violence: an End in Itself" and "Economic Recovery."

The event was opened by the center's president, Dr Salvador Nelson Garcia, after which the moderator, Dr Jorge Guillermo Tenorio, made a few explanatory remarks before giving the floor to the first speaker, Mr Francisco Quinonez Avila from the PPS.

Quinonez Avila stressed that a genuine moral reform was needed here to put an end to the corruption that has taken root in government. He added that we must strive to see to it that justice is truly meted out in our country, inasmuch as the lack of respect for justice during 20 years of imposed governments has led to violence, because the Executive Branch has had the courts under its thumb and has not allowed them to act with true autonomy.

As far as the rebels are concerned, Quinonez Avila called on them to put down their arms and become part of the democratic process, inasmuch as the only solution that we ought to accept is the ballot box, not weapons, he said.

According to the PPS presidential candidate, once violence, corruption and other ills caused by terrorism have been eradicated, peace will follow, and the economy will recover by itself when people feel safe about investing their money.

Fortin Magana said that he regretted that other political parties such as the MNR [National Revolutionary Movement] and the UDN [Nationalist Democratic Union], which are today part of the FDR [Revolutionary Democratic Front], were not present at the round table. "I regret their absence because I am familiar with how energetically they put forth their arguments. During my college days I had the opportunity to battle those extremist ideas. I have lived with that monster and I know its inner workings," Fortin Magana said.

He argued that ideas should be fought with ideas and that we are not going to resolve our problems by killing. "A few months ago we put forth the idea of getting that political sector involved and inviting it to become part of the Central Council of Elections. I don't know whether the Peace Commission would do so, but we can now see that the report of the Kissinger Commission mentions this point. Unfortunately, it is too late, because the constitution stipulates the composition of the council. Of course I am not that naive that I believe that they are going to meekly join the process just because I am making this suggestion."

Things are not as easy as they seem, Fortin Magana said, pointing out that we must struggle to have ideas respected. For example, he added, "it is not just a matter of calling on them to come and take part in the elections."

The AD candidate stated that corruption had to be done away with. The Kissinger Commission has said that the governments suffering from "kleptocracy" must be eliminated. "Let's commit this word to memory. We don't want 'kleptocrats,'" Fortin Magana said.

With regard to the administration of justice, he stressed that "I would rather not do a macabre inventory. But when we discuss violence, we cannot fail to address the issue of missing persons. If a person has committed a crime, that's what the law is for. We must trust the law because when it is strong and respected, it is sufficient to punish any corrupt person, any criminal," the AD leader stated. Now then, he added, "we presidential candidates must come up with appropriate responses to these problems so that we don't play the role of puppets."

The PAISA candidate, Roberto Escobar Garcia, said that there could be two causes of violence in the country: one, internal shortcomings, and two, Marxist-Leninist penetration and the expansionist designs of the Soviet Union and Cuba. "I think that the second factor is the main reason, although we are not going to overlook our shortcomings. But what country doesn't have them?" Escobar Garcia asked.

He stressed that the Marxists are realizing that communism as an economic system is in a crisis and have therefore singled out this region and are trying to make a tool out of it. He also said that he would like peace to return to the country, but unfortunately "a group of Salvadorans have dropped out of society and taken up the weapons that others have given them, and until they come back, there will be no peace."

Duarte began his speech impetuously, so much so that some of the panel members called him a rabble-rouser while others claimed that he was talking about the noose in the hanged man's house, especially when he said that although we cannot overlook the outside influences in our conflict, the roots of the violence are to be found in the unjust situation over the past five decades. This situation has been caused by those who have everything, while others have nothing. Institutionalized violence has emerged over the years, as the "death squads" were formed on the one side and "subversion arose on the other." Both "are terrorism," said Duarte. Just as the culture of fraud was encouraged here, so was the culture of terror and violence that we are suffering from today, argued the Christian Democrat candidate.

Dr Francisco Jose Guerrero, who in the view of many was the target of the criticism of what has been going on over the past 20 years, said that he had come not to attend a political rally but to carry out the purposes of the round table, some of which he read out loud.

Guerrero acknowledged that there had, in fact, been mistakes over the past 20 years. But corruption existed both before and after 15 September 1971. "Nevertheless," the PCN candidate said, "speaking calmly, I think that men, not organizations must be judged."

Guerrero cited the examples of Spiro Agnew and Nixon in the United States, both of whom had to resign from office for reasons with which we are all familiar. In spite of them, the Republican Party regained power after losing it, because the American people realized that organizations are not to blame for the actions of their members.

As for corruption, the faulty administration of justice and other woes plaguing the country, Dr Guerrero suggested the formation of an interparty commission to see to it that the law is enforced.

D'Aubuisson was the last to speak. He said that "there has been talk here of corruption, exploitation and all of the ills of the last 50 years, but nothing has been said about the struggle of all those far-sighted men who have been the pillar of the country's economic development."

He acknowledged that although there had been corruption in the past, it never reached the alarming levels that it has over the last 4 years. D'Aubuisson said that the nationalizations led to bureaucracy, which is corruption. He also claimed that he has learned that some "hanky-panky" is going on "to prevent me from registering as a candidate." He complained that the country is being used by the superpowers as a "guinea pig." "They provide the weapons for war, and we supply the blood," he said.

[26 Jan 84 p 32]

[Text] "The structure of violence that exists in our society is linked to an entire history of ruling parties that encouraged the culture of fraud, parallel to which the culture of terror gradually developed," said Jose Napoleon Duarte, the presidential candidate of the Christian Democratic Party.

As we reported yesterday, Duarte and five other candidates took part in a round table discussion of violence in the country, corruption, the administration of justice and economic recovery. It was sponsored by the Center for Juridical Studies.

Addressing the issue of violence, Duarte said that "it is easy to come here and say that the MNR and the UDN ought to be involved in the current election campaign or that they ought to be taking part in a round table like this one. But we all know that if the MNR and UDN were here, their leaders would be in danger of being dragged out of their houses in the middle of the night," alluding to what another candidate had said.

Duarte went on to say that the structure of violence that has developed over recent decades has become rooted in each town to gain or maintain power. "It has been said here that the administration of justice begins with the justices of the peace. This is true, but let us not forget that justices of the peace have been used to initiate spurious trials, to slander those who were opposed to the government. For all these reasons we need to put an end to this servitude, we need freedom so that professionals, blue-collar workers and peasant farmers can organize," Duarte said.

He went on to say that violence has undermined the foundations of the judicial system, instilling fear in judges, witnesses and attorneys. Witnesses do not want to testify against criminals, corrupt individuals, etc. "Judges do not want to issue sentences. They receive little pieces of paper, threats; they transfer the cases, etc. And attorneys

would rather not prosecute or defend. We must put a stop to this structure of violence so that witnesses can testify and judges can hand down rulings in complete freedom," Duarte contended.

Still on the topic of justice, Duarte noted that investigation methods were another reason that it is being administered poorly. "Investigations have been in the hands of auxiliary bodies," he stated, "and this has meant their prostitution or destruction. We have to distinguish here between technical aspects and the concept of security. When this relationship is confused, repression could be the result," the Christian Democrat candidate said.

Duarte said that corruption has been around for many, not a few years and that therefore we need a government that is willing to punish corrupt individuals.

In the economic sphere, he said that we must realize that one of the problems in our society is the consumption-oriented individualism of those who wish to live in affluence while others struggle to survive, adding that there will be no justice as long as we do not have a strong middle class. "We must support the small and medium-sized merchants and industrialists so that they grow strong and are no longer dependent on the big boys," Duarte argued.

In conclusion, he said that we must come to grips with the current situation from both a short- and long-term angle, inasmuch as we are all paying the social costs of the times that we are living in.

After listening to all of the attacks on the PCN's 20 years in power, Dr Francisco Jose Guerrero began by saying that in his view democracy was based on tolerance of the ideas of others.

With regard to corruption, he said that it is not a new problem. It goes back 50 years, though this does not justify it. Therefore, since we all agree that it must be eradicated, the ideal thing would be to set up a multiparty front to fight it. It would be a good idea to establish an interparty commission to come up with practical measures.

After assessing past experience, the PCN has decided to focus its campaign on two major areas, education and labor. "In the area of education we have to instill moral values, because while the commission of a crime is a serious matter, complicity by silence is serious as well," Guerrero said.

Moral values must be instilled from childhood, and teachers, "instead of corrupting young people, should devote themselves to instilling these values," he stated.

As far as justice is concerned, efforts have been made to improve it, but we lawyers know that this is no easy task. "Blind forces have always opposed this. Today, however, a Penal Legislation Review Commission has been established, and we should give it our full support."

The PCN candidate said that "we need to modernize our justice system to eliminate pressure and the influence of money. We need to put the letter of the law into practice," Guerrero stated. He criticized the longstanding custom of transferring judges from trials in which they were proceeding in accordance with the law, and he also underscored the need to protect witnesses so that they can testify without fear.

With regard to violence, he said that it is universal but has reached alarming proportions here. He acknowledged that there are internal factors, aggravated by Soviet and Cuban expansionist designs. Guerrero denounced the attitude of the guerrillas, who "even if efforts are made to eliminate the causes, are still bent on the destruction of our economy. They want power, not a dialogue, and therefore on 25 March the people must say what they want. If the turnout is huge, it will be a resounding defeat for subversion, but if voter abstention is massive, it could be dangerous. So we must be prepared," said the PCN candidate.

Returning to the problem of violence, he said that "one party is not going to solve it; rather, all sectors must help find a mechanism. We must seek peace, but not a cowardly, servile peace," Guerrero said.

He said that the first step towards economic recovery is the creation of jobs. We have an agricultural infrastructure and a reformed sector. We must strengthen these sectors, he said.

He also spoke about the promotion of industry, asserting that as far as the PCN is concerned, "preferences should not be given to small, medium or large firms. We must support them all so that they produce and generate wealth," he said.

For his part, Roberto D'Aubuisson, the ARENA candidate, said that "we have heard criticism here of the past 50 years of government, but no one has mentioned that these years have been the foundation of our great economic structure. If there have been mistakes, the leaders are to blame. And now that we are 'guinea pigs' of the superpowers, we must give our response on 25 March."

He said that the worst corruption was nationalization of industry, because this contains the seed of corruption. Our banks are nationalized, and who controls their boards of directors? D'Aubuisson asked. He harshly criticized the corruption over the past 3 years, saying that extravagant purchases were made, such as the gasohol plant, in the knowledge that the country could not afford them. Corruption also means using government power to employ relatives, he noted.

He had harsh words for the practice of switching military officers in response to requests from overseas and of recommending that they leave the country in what, for all practical purposes, represents exile, even though these men are doing a good job in the war effort. "Corruption also means apprehending persons and holding them incommunicado even though martial law has expired," he asserted.

With regard to violence, he said that everyone is talking about the "death squads," and "I too have criticized their methods. I have also said, however, that we must bear in mind that many of the crimes attributed to them are committed by common criminals or by the subversives themselves," he said.

With regard to the reforms, he stated that through the Salvadoran Institute of Agrarian Transformation, ARENA has tried to correct the mistakes of poor agricultural planning, and there is a management plan today that has yielded magnificent results.

8743

CSO: 3248/401

ECONOMIC ISSUES REMAIN A PRIMARY FOCUS OF CONCERN

Credit Restriction

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 26 Jan 84 p 1

[Text]

The programme of new monetary measures announced by the Government on Tuesday in Ministry Paper No.5 is intended essentially to restrict the growth in credit expansion in the financial system. The growth in domestic credit has the effect of fuelling consumption, and in an import dependent economy inevitably there is a deterioration in the balance-of-payments. The build-up in liquid reserves in the Bank of Jamaica anticipated by Government, has not materialised as the performance of the export sector has been disappointing.

The net result is that the Government has had to increase its level of external borrowing, hence the rise in the public debt and the massive servicing cost. Additionally, with real output lagging, inflation which in 1983 returned to double digit (Government estimate of 16.6 percent) must be contained. In other words, demand-push inflation must be reduced.

In increasing the liquid asset ratio of the commercial banks to 40 percent, after a reduction of the ratio to 36 percent in April last year, the Government is expressing dissatisfaction with the direction of domestic credit. For the real growth of just over 1 percent achieved in 1983 does not correspond with an increase of some 20 percent in the level of domestic credit in the same period, which suggests that there continues to be significant outflow of capital. The increase in the Bank Rate, while intended to attract investible resources, will mean an increase in the cost of money and with the companion measures of an increase in the credit ceiling of commercial banks to 12 percent, a doubling of the cash reserve ratio of the banks to 10 percent and a rise in the liquid asset ratio of the relevant Banks and Trust Companies to 15 percent, will result in a shortage of money.

The danger is that in increasing the Treasury Bill limit from \$500 million to \$700 million the Government could well be crowding out the private sector, taking up the credit which could be more productively deployed. The crunch is on and it is only a more productive use of available resources that will help to extricate the economy from the difficulties.

Improved Planning

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 31 Jan 84 pp 1, 3

[Text] A project document titled, 'Preparation of Integrated Development Plans' with an input of US\$306,000 under joint agreement between the Government of Jamaica and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was signed on Friday.

The document, which aims at developing an integrated plan for the improvement of urban and rural physical planning, was signed on behalf of UNDP

and the United Nations Centre for Human settlements (HABITAT) by UNDP's Resident Representative to Jamaica, Dr. Brenda McSweeney. National Planning Agency's Co-ordinator of Multilateral Projects, Miss Dahlia Owens, signed on the Government's behalf.

This project, expected to make a significant contribution to Government's policy to generate new employment, earn foreign exchange and reduce rural-urban migration, is to be implemented through the Town Planning Department, Ministry of Financing & Planning; while technical assistance will be furnished by HABITAT. The UNDP, for its part, will provide administrative, monitoring and coordinating support services.

Jamaica's first 20-year development plan for the entire country was assisted by UNDP. According to the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga, it is the most comprehensive, national plan ever prepared and we still find it of great value and importance today.

"Our Urban Development Corporation has spent about \$6 million to upgrade the facilities in rural towns to lessen the migration to the cities," Mr. Seaga said. "This came out of the physical plan. Looking at the drift of population, we determined what would have happened to the growth of urban settlement if there was no plan. All the incre-

mental population would have ended up in urban areas".

"In the plan," Mr. Seaga said, "we select about 200 towns in the rural areas for upgrading so as to put urban facilities — good markets, police stations, schools and recreational facilities — within the easy access of every village. 1972 was the commencement year of the plan and it was to end in 1990".

The project just approved represents part of an exercise to update and revamp this 20-year plan.

Former Project Manager, Mr. William Patterson, who was instrumental in the preparation of the National Physical Plan published in October, 1971, returns to the island

today to assume office as Chief Technical Advisor on the new project.

The integrated development plans will identify investment projects for further implementation focusing on the Kingston, St. Catherine, Manchester, Clarendon regions. Proposals will be made for an improved system of development control; land policies; transportation; zoning; a revised national atlas; a continuous in-house training and education programme and a new system for collecting, analysing and retrieving planning data.

These plans, also though largely to be implemented by the Town Planning Department, will be undertaken in respect of

rural area planning and recommendation by the rural Physical Division. In the meantime, the project's identification and development will be jointly undertaken in collaboration with the urban Development Corporation (UDC) and the Jamaica National Investment Promotions Ltd. (JNIP).

Other liaison organizations in this effort include the Ministry of Environment, Science & Technology's Natural Resource Conservation Department; the Office of Disaster Preparedness, the Ministry of Construction, the National Water Authority, the Kingston & St. Andrew Corporation, and the Parish Councils of St. Catherine and Clarendon.

Stone Attack on IMF

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 30 Jan 84 p 8

[Article by Carl Stone]

[Text]

Right-wing crusador "Murry" Perkins would have us believe that the IMF represents merely prudent bankers or money lenders who take steps to ensure that the money they lend is repayable. In his view it is "arrant nonsense" to suggest that the IMF has straight jacked successive PNP and JLP governments and that our excessive borrowing amounts to a virtual mortgaging of our economy to that arm of the international financial bureaucracy.

Far from being prudent money lenders, the IMF is a very political institution which operates according to political pressures and a political agenda of priorities dictated by the industrial capitalist interests who control it.

Lets examine a few facts.

Jamaica received the largest allocations of IMF loans in per capita terms in the 1970's while it was governed by a regime whose politics,

foreign policy and rhetoric were tailor made to induce capital flight and lack of confidence among investors. This could hardly be portrayed as the act of prudent money lenders.

The reason is quite simple. Billions of dollars were being pumped into the coffers of western banks by oil rich Third World economies in the 1970's. Jamaica's leader Michael Manley was seen as an influential Third World leader with some clout. The mood of the IMF in the 1970's was to project a liberal image to the Third World by bending over backwards to accommodate radical Third World political tendencies. We benefitted from this temporary petroleum windfall that liberalised the IMF's politics.

Political love affair

The IMF team leader who was sent here (Argentine economist Albertelli) was handpicked for the job as a man with known democratic socialist sympathies. It was hoped that a political love affair could develop which would be of great political propaganda value for the IMF in dealing with sharp criticisms from the Third World.

But inevitably the IMF package of conditionalities and its medicine of pruning public spending, cutting budget and balance of payments deficits, reducing state subsidies and active state involvement in the economy came on a collision course with PNP populism.

The love affair did not materialise and Manley made a political target of the IMF.

What is incredible is that after our generous allocation of loans in the 1970's which showed no positive results in terms of economic recovery or even achievement of the limited objectives of the IMF stabilisation objectives, the IMF was again anxious (for different political impulses) to strike up another affair with the JLP's Seaga. The fact that the courting started before the JLP came to power angered the PNP quite a bit.

Massive scale of lending

We then proceeded to borrow even substantially larger sums from the IMF (and other sources) in an economy dependent on one major source of foreign exchange that most economic forecasts were projecting for disaster in the 1980's due to the recession that rapidly overtook the industrial economies.

The massive scale of lending that this country became the beneficiary of was hardly the act of prudent money lenders, but rather, the actions of international financial bureaucrats providing aid for the "favourite son" and "client state" of the powerful U.S. President Ronald Reagan. No prudent bankers would lend this kind of money to an economy that failed to show real signs of recovery after the big diet of borrowing in the seventies and when the storm clouds of world recession were already visible, meaning inevitable disaster for bauxite earnings.

More importantly, the virtual orgy of lending that papered over the cracks in the economy encouraged us (just like the Mexicans and the Brazilians and the Venezuelans) to borrow without too much regard for how the likely medium term flow of earnings would pay back these loans, given the storm clouds of world recession.

Failing IMF tests

Of course, some additional politics got into the picture. Like Manley, Seaga's JLP started to fail the IMF tests. Seaga leaned on Reagan to bail him out by pressuring the IMF to grant us a waiver. The IMF technocrats were angry. When Seaga's government failed the second test, they decided to put the squeeze on.

It is the squeeze they are now attempting to put on the government that was the occasion for my passing swipe at the

IMF, which became the subject of one of those elegant Perkins T.V. commentaries which impress with verbal flourishes and nicely measured prose but say absolutely nothing beyond his usual rude personal attacks.

The IMF is now demanding that the Seaga government balance its current revenue and expenditure and that it also attempt to balance its foreign trade current account.

Impressive strides

Now as the following figures show, the JLP has made impressive strides towards reducing the deficit on current budget revenue and expenditure. It has done so by prudent house keeping, improved tax collection and more vigilance in expanding the pool of income earners who pay income tax.

Recurrent budget surplus/deficit (J\$millions)

1977-78 — 200;

1978-79 — 120;

1979-80 — 210;

1980-81 — 352;

1981-82 — 133;

1982-83 — 140.

Tax revenue has grown some 70% since 1979-80 in terms of cash inflows (unadjusted for inflation) while income taxes have grown over the period by 129%.

Indictment

The JLP can hardly be faulted for trying, yet the IMF seems intent on forcing Seaga to lay-off large numbers of public sector workers and to substantially increase taxes on retail sales and land tax to fill the gap. Paradoxically, any such moves will greatly aid and expand the political credits of Michael Manley and PNP.

But the indictment against the IMF goes much deeper. According to IMF's own internal appraisal of the effect of its stabilisation programmes in the Third World (IMF Survey October 25, 1982) these good house-keeping conditionalities the IMF insists on have not been shown to be associated with any pattern of economic recovery over the 1971-1980 period. The medicine continues to be applied with the blind faith typical of tunnel vision international bureaucrats, but the patients don't ever seem to get better.

These good house-keeping objectives have no bearing on the structural changes necessary to equip Third World economies to deal with the current world economic pressures. All they seem to achieve is political instability and loss of support for government's in power and a sense of power on the part of the international financial bureaucracy that delights in flexing its muscles and punishing those "featry third world leaders" who lean on their big friends to by-pass the dictates of the bureaucracy. Manley got his blows now Seaga is getting his.

Painful adjustments

But how may I ask can any prudent money lender expect a client to balance a budget in the face of fiscal policies that are so savagely depressing domestic demand, tight financial policies that are likely to squeeze the private sector, drastic import reductions that will multiply both effects?

The 1982 IMF Government Finance Yearbook tells us that only about 50% of the advanced industrial capitalist economies now achieved what the IMF is asking that we do in the short run.

All the verbal flourishes and measured prose of that political crusador Mr. Perkins are not going to change those realities.

But all the blame can't be put on the IMF. We share full responsibility for covering over our sores with IMF sticking plaster in the vain hope that they will disappear. For 7 long and painful years we have used IMF loans to postpone all the painful adjustments we have to make to make our public and private sectors ship-worthy to cope with the high seas of economic crisis.

We have nothing to show for it except massive debts and a demoralised people.

Enough is enough. Lets begin to face reality and do what has to be done.

OIL SPILL CLEANUP OPERATION UNDER WAY AT PORT ESQUIVEL

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 31 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] Clean-up operations to control a oil spill in the Port Esquivel area of St. Catherine got underway yesterday morning and the activities should be completed by the end of this week, the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology said yesterday.

An up-to-date report of the situation was given yesterday afternoon by Commander Peter Brady, of the Jamaica Coast Guard, following an inspection of the area. Commander Brady was briefing an emergency meeting of the National Oil Spill Response Team at the Office of disaster Preparedness.

A news release from the Ministry said it is estimated that some 22,000 gallons of bulk C oil escaped from a broken pipeline while being pumped from the Shell bunkers at Port Esquivel to the Jamaica Public Service Old Harbour power plant over the weekend. It is understood that the pipeline is owned and maintained by Texaco Incorporated.

"The cause of the pipeline break has not yet been determined. An underwater inspection will take place tomorrow," the news release said.

The oil has fouled the beaches in the vicinity of Port Esquivel and the oil slick generated has covered an area of approximately four square miles in the south west quadrant of Old Harbour Bay as far south as Salt Island. The Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Agriculture has been advising fishermen to avoid the area covered by the slick in order to reduce damage to engines and boats.

It has been pointed out that the majority of fishermen operating from Old Harbour bay should not be affected by the spill as they normally fish further out at sea than the area now covered by the slick.

Arrangements are being made by Shell, Texaco and Alcan Jamaica, who operate the port, to act in conjunction with the National Oil Spill Response Team to clean up the beaches.

CSO: 3298/498

THOUSANDS OF VOTERS REGISTERED DURING ENUMERATION EXTENSION

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 26 Jan 84 p 1

[Text]

An additional 20,000 persons were estimated to have been registered during the 10-day extension period enumeration exercise, the Minister of Construction, the Hon. Bruce Golding, whose portfolios also include electoral matters, told the House of Representatives yesterday.

Mr. Golding, in a statement to the House on the progress of enumeration and registration of voters, also announced his resignation from the Electoral Advisory Committee, consequent on his assumption of responsibility for the subject of Electoral Matters following the December 15 elections last year.

He has been replaced by the Hon. Karl Samuda, Minister of State in the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, who has already been appointed by the Governor-General, acting on the advice of the Prime Minister.

At the time when the last General Elections were announced towards the end of November, a total of approximately 922,000 persons had been registered.

During the extension period, it is estimated that an additional 20,000 persons were registered, bringing the total to approximately 942,000.

"It is to be noted that this figure is some 50,000 less than the total of 990,586 who were registered to vote in the general elections of December, 1980. The figures given for the current enumeration, however, are preliminary and are subject to refinement after the necessary

processing and verification are completed," Mr. Golding said.

Now that the house-to-house registration has ended, work is proceeding on the processing of the relevant documents in preparation for the printing of new voters lists and production of photo-identification cards.

This phase of the exercise involves a number of detailed processes:

- (1) The receipt and recording of registration documents from each of the 5,502 polling divisions.
- (2) The editing of each registration document to ensure that it has been completed properly and to ensure correct spelling and abbreviations.
- (3) The key-punching of the relevant information from each registration document so as to create the data base for computer verification of each registration and computer compilation of the voters list.
- (4) The transcribing by typewriter of the relevant information in respect of each voter so as to create the source document for reproduction on individual identification cards.
- (5) The affixing of the appropriate photograph to the source document for each elector.
- (6) The filming of the source document and the development of the negative therefrom.
- (7) The printing of the negative on special base stock, trimming and lamination to produce the final photo-identification card.

BOMB HOAX AT MINISTRY OF LABOR EMPTIES BUILDING

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 27 Jan 84 p 1

[Text]

A bomb hoax at the Ministry of Labour yesterday sent employees and negotiators scurrying from the building, resulting in the settlement of one major wage dispute under the shade of an almond tree in the yard.

A telephone operator got a call at about 11 a.m. from someone who claimed that a bomb was planted in the building and would explode at 12.15 p.m. The staff of the Ministry, as well as labour negotiators, were instructed to exit and the building was emptied in a few minutes.

The police were called and after a futile search lasting several minutes, the building was re-occupied.

In the meantime, however, a conciliatory meet-

ing involving salaried sugar industry staff which involved the Sugar Producers Federation, the BITU and the NWU under the chairmanship of the Ministry's Director of Industrial Relations, Mr. Anthony Irons, and which was nearing a settlement, was transferred to the shade of one of the many almond trees in the yard.

The unions and the Federation's representatives continued to meet, standing under the shade of the tree, while the police searched the building. By the time the search was done, the parties had reached an agreement on a new labour/management contract and the negotiations were concluded.

Details of the new agreement are expected to be released some time today.

CSO: 3298/497

BRIEFS

STUDY OF UNION CLAIM--The Minister of Labour, the Hon. J. A. G. Smith, has appointed a Board of Enquiry under Section 14 (2) of the Labour Relations and Industrial Disputes Act, to deal with the recurrent claim by the BITU and the NWU for payment of redundancy and notice pay to former members of the sugar workers co-operatives. The former co-operators, through the two unions, have been demanding payment of redundancy and notice pay from the Government since the co-ops were dismantled in 1981. However, legal spokesmen for the Government have said since that the co-operators cannot expect redundancy and notice payments from the Government, as they were the owners of the co-ops. However, the workers have threatened to take industrial action if the Government did not take up the matter. The Ministry of Labour, in a news release yesterday, said that the Minister had decided to appoint a Board of Enquiry comprised of Mr. Dan Kelly, attorney, as chairman; Mr. Donovan Hunter and Mr. Winston Meeks. Mr. Delroy Allman, of the Ministry, is the Secretary. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 27 Jan 84 p 1]

VENEZUELAN ALUMINA BUY--Kingston, Wed., (Cana): Venezuela has agreed to buy 210,000 tonnes of Jamaica alumina in 1984, under an existing pact ending next year, despite the development of its own refinery. According to Mining and Energy Minister, Hugh Hart, the Venezuelan State-owned Aluminium smelter, Venalum, had guaranteed this year's purchase. Hart, who tied up the arrangement while in Caracas attending last week's inauguration of President Jaime Lusinchi, did not give the purchase price, but a senior bauxite official told Cana: "It is basically a price indexed to the price of the metal, and it is very much better than the free market price. That's the way the agreement was negotiated in 1977." [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 9 Feb 84 p 5]

BANK INTEREST RATE INCREASE--Kingston, Jamaica, Saturday (AP)--Jamaica has increased commercial bank interest rates by 2 per cent, to keep them above the current treasury bill rate of 12.2 per cent. The increase, announced on Tuesday to Parliament by Prime Minister Edward Seaga, brings the commercial bank rate to 13 per cent. At the same time, Seaga announced that Jamaica's economy registered a positive growth of 1.7 per cent in 1983, while the rate of inflation rose to 16.6 per cent. He said a 2 per cent economic growth was projected for the current year. Seaga also announced the following measures:--A 12 per cent ceiling on credit increases to the

private sector by commercial banks as a group or individually.--Increasing from 36 to 40 per cent the overall liquid ratio of commercial banks, and eliminating the foreign currency float as a factor in that ratio.--Increasing commercial banks' cash reserve ratio from 5 to 10 per cent.--Increasing the liquid assets ratio of merchant banks and trust companies from 10 to 15 per cent, and--increasing the maximum lending rate of building societies from 14 to 16 per cent. Seaga said the measures were intended to improve Jamaica's balance of payments position, contain inflation and encourage savings. [Text] [Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 29 Jan 84 p 3]

CSO: 3298/498

STORY OF GUERRILLAS USING ECHEVERRIA PROPERTY EXAMINED

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 21 Dec 83 pp 1-A, 20-A

[Article by Jose Luis Mejias in the "Untouchables" column: "Guerrillas"]

[Text] Unamuno: When they preach Freedom they are thinking of only one freedom: to have at their disposal the wife and property of their neighbor.

Some comments have appeared in print concerning the discovery of a so-called guerrilla training center in Morelos. According to one of the two well-known versions of this story, it is on the Axochiapan plantation, property of former President Luis Echeverria. According to the second version it is in the Tabachines caves. According to the latter, it all began with the 17 year old son of Eduardo Millet was detained by the local police because he was dressed in operetta-type guerrilla clothes and had a plastic machinegun, an exact, although harmless, replica of an R15. Questioned by the police about his bizarre attire and suspicious conduct, he said that he was a member of the "Las 24 garras" [24 claws] guerrilla group headed by a certain Jimmy Karman. The members were being trained in karate, the use of guerrilla arms and tactics with the aim of outwitting or defeating, in due course, the United States Army if this were necessary, in order to put Ronald Reagan out of the White House and to save the world from atomic destruction.

Police thought the youth was raving mad or that his wits had been addled by TV but just in case they made an investigation of the Tabachines caves and surroundings and of course found nothing except lizards; nothing which would corroborate in any way the hallucinatory statements of the self-styled guerrilla apprentice.

According to the first version, members of the Federal Security Directorate [DFS], the Military Police [PM], and the Federal Judicial Police [PJF], captured at Axochiapan--property of former President Luis Echeverria although recorded in the name of the Spaniard Alfonso Fernandez--about 40 guerrilla fighters and professional agitators of several nationalities--Dutch, German, Nicaraguan, Salvadoran, Guatemalan, Chilean and of course Mexican. In addition, cocaine worth about 2 billion pesos was seized. According to this account, 40 guerrilla fighters were taken to Military Camp No 1 for questioning and about 20 others escaped the police net. This account states that at Axochiapan

there was a curfew on Tuesdays and after 2000 hours no one was allowed to leave his house so that the guerrilla fighters could engage undisturbed in training. Meanwhile, the secretary general of the Morelos Government kept informing Governor Lauro Ortega that the entire territory under his jurisdiction was calm.

Both versions agree that the report which caused the police to act came from a group of notaries public--Nos 8, 2, 3 and 5--assigned to duty in Cuernavaca who quarrel heatedly among themselves, and accuse each other of an endless number of illicit acts in which former President Luis Echeverria is involved in one way or another.

There is, of course, a third version which we believe is in accordance with the known facts and we are going to tell you about this version. For a clearer understanding of the fact, we will begin by listing some of former President Luis Echeverria's properties in Morelos: the Moctezuma cement factory, with 3,000 tons daily production and in which 10 billion pesos are invested; a piece of property bought from the Urdaneta family for 5 billion pesos; the Sumiya property, including the oriental palace which was bought from Barbara Hutton and is conservatively valued at 5.5 billion pesos; the El Tanque property; a luxurious property on Guayabos Street; the Morelos Hotel Hacienda Real in which 1 billion pesos are invested; the hotel on the Los Laureles estate in which 900 million pesos are invested; the Hacienda de San Gaspar Hotel in which 800 million pesos are invested; a property next to Tabachines; numerous properties in the most valuable sections of Cuernavaca; Los Laureles, the residence of deceased President Avila Camacho, bought from his widow Soledad. Former President Echeverria's investments in Morelos are estimated at 25 billion pesos. It seems to us this is sufficient for a man who styles himself the champion of the Third World. A small part of the income from this fortune would be enough to support CEESTEM [Center for Third World Economic and Social Studies]--now that the government seems to have tired of supporting it--without Echeverria needing to go about soliciting help for this from foreign progressive or leftist organizations, as he has begun to do.

But let us forget about CESSTEM and go ahead with our story. A few days before the story about the guerrillas began to go around, Echeverria went to the government house for an audience with Governor Lauro Ortega to whom he presented the following case: He said, overcome with indignation, that Socialist Workers Party [PST] agitators were getting a group of professional parachute jumpers to invade his lands, which were for sale, and his rural properties. Things had gone so far that they had ready lumber, sheets of metal, stones and other basic building materials with which they were at once going to build huts and shacks so as to confront the authorities with a large-scale occupation and settlement which would make their expulsion difficult. Inasmuch as these maneuvers were unlawful, Echeverria said he was seeking protection and justice from the highest authority of the area.

We would have given 3 months of our salary to have been present at the scene. As President of the Republic Echeverria, as you know, harassed Lauro Ortega as Secretary of the Government--they were political rivals--and hounded and

tormented him. Mr Echeverria, do you love your properties so much that you didn't mind going to a man whom you previously had tormented to ask his protection? The governor of course gave him protection after pointing out the damage caused by the invasion of lands and after speaking about his duties as governor, especially, that of protecting the life and property of the governed and especially those of historic personages to whom the fatherland is so indebted. An eye-witness said that Echeverria gravely expressed agreement and Lauro Ortega was as happy as on the day on which he was sworn in as president of the PRI CEN [National Executive Committee of the Institutional Revolutionary Party], a position from which he was removed by Echeverria with help from Alfonso Martinez Dominguez.

Convinced or defeated, the would-be invaders of urban and rural properties belonging to absentee landlord former President Echeverria left the vicinity of the properties they had planned to invade so Echeverria was able to breathe calmly after he was about to take a dose of his own bitter medicine.

Well, you may ask, "Do Echeverria, his properties and the invasions have anything to do with the imagined or real guerrillas discovered in Morelos? Yes. There is a connection but we have run out of space and we will have to continue another time.

9204

CSO: 3248/367

ECONOMIC SLUMP, REFINERY PROBLEMS PLAGUE CURACAO

Amsterdam ELSEVIERS WEEKBLAD in Dutch 21 Jan 84 pp 13-15

[Article by Nico van Grieken (including report on an interview with Jim Wilson, head of Shell-Curacao on 9 January - place not given - and an interview with Prime Minister Don F. Martina on 14 January in Fort Amsterdam, in Willemstad, Curacao): "Special Powers Act To Keep Shell in Curacao"]

[Text] The Netherlands Antilles are experiencing bad times. Will Shell remain in Curacao? Is there a pull from the American economy? Will the Venezuelan tourists return to buy? Is the Antillean route in danger? What is certain is the fact that the Antillean Martina government is no longer inclined to budge: Shell will have to stay, if necessary through the tough approach of a special powers act.

For days, the streets of Punda, the typically Amsterdam-like center of Willemstad in Curacao, the capital of the Netherlands Antilles, had been dead but now the tourists were back. The day before, the cab driver had barely been able to keep the news to himself. Behind the steering wheel of his swerving Oldsmobile, still guzzling cheap gasoline: "Tomorrow, three cruise ships full of Americans will arrive." A couple gold teeth shone in his coffee-brown face. Kassa, Sir, good day!

But... Americans, not Venezuelans, and that makes quite a bit of difference. Americans look, Venezuelans buy, buy a lot and are thus very welcome. The shopkeepers sadly recall how the South Americans drove back home with full car loads. However, since their currency, the bolivar, tumbled in record time from a quarter to one-twelfth of the American dollar, the subjects of the new Venezuelan President Lusinchi have stayed away and, in a manner of speaking, there are only the shopgirls left to rock their hips to the sparkling sounds of the tumba, the "leading march" of the upcoming Caribbean carnival, and thus also the carnival of Curacao.

Life is getting hard in the Netherlands Antilles, specifically for Curacao. The consequences of the declining tourist industry have caused many businesses to go broke, have eroded the necessary supply of foreign currency and hence have narrowed the already corroded cork on which the island of 160,000 inhabitants floats off the coast of Venezuela. "The Netherlands Antilles, the Dutch masterpiece in the Caribbean" is faced with one of the

most problematic periods of its existence. The Leeward islands, and especially Curacao, are in danger of running aground on multiple economic, financial, social and political problems which can barely be grasped.

So far, life remains joyous. In Otrabanda, for example, on the other side of Punda across the Saint Anna Bay. The crowd jostles and dances once again to the infectious rhythm of the tumba, this time with the text: "I reduce my income, you reduce your income, we all do it a little." In Fort Amsterdam, however, the political leaders led by Prime Minister Don F. Martina (an engineer) are meeting from early morning till late at night, considering the question of how to keep things from remaining only the words of very popular tunes.

Ambushes

With the courage of despair, the vulnerable social-democratic government of Martina, wonderfully controlled, is cutting a path through the jungle of primarily financial and economic problems, but the political ambushes are not to be sneezed at either. In terms of intellect, perception and vision the unchallenged leader of the New Antillean Movement [MAN], Martina has a majority of one seat in parliament. This is only quantitatively comparable to the Second Chamber in the Hague. For the rest, the level of bickering is such that representatives from the First and Second Chambers, who are currently visiting here, can only smile with desperation. In an atmosphere of insinuations, low-down discussions and especially with the handicap, which is taking increasingly serious forms, that the Netherlands Antilles consists of four parts -- the windward islands which fight amongst each other, Curacao, Bonaire and Aruba --, in such an atmosphere the Martina government is faced with the task of protecting "the country" from a direct collapse.

In a letter to parliament, for convenience sake dated 5 December, Minister of Finance De Poula noted: "We must prevent the Netherlands Antilles from slipping into financial chaos in 1984. If this slip does not take place in 1984, it will inevitably occur the following year."

To illustrate this, here is an outline of those financial-economic problems of the government. The question of whether Shell will remain in Curacao or not, and even the question of whether the Antilles will be able to continue to count on one-fifth of its national income, is starting to look like a Caribbean reef. The as yet unpublished 1984 draft budget for the Netherlands Antilles showed a budgetary deficit of 61.8 million Antillean guilders and, because the Antillean guilder is coupled to the ever increasing value of the American dollar, it is currently worth 1.80 Dutch guilders. The sizable deficit was the result of 623.3 million guilders -- still Antillean guilders-- in expenditures and 574.5 million in receipts. As a result of windfalls and even bigger disappointments, the 48.8 million guilder deficit turned into the above mentioned 61.8 million guilders.

Pruning

But all these figures are now in the past tense. Seriously frightened by these figures and by the observation that as a result of the recession, import and excise duties would bring in far less than had been budgeted, the government decided to do some pruning, among others in the areas of civil servant salaries (15 million guilders less), overtime payments (1.2 million guilders less) and personnel growth (makes a 4.4 million guilders difference). The following will become more expensive: gasoline (9 million guilders in additional proceeds), spirits, beer and cigarettes. The rates in the health care sector will also go up drastically, which will produce an extra 12 million guilders.

The result of all of this: a budgetary deficit of no more than 1.4 million guilders. However, note the date of De Poula's letter: 5 December 1984. It is not all that certain yet that the cuts will be implemented this year already and thus, the Netherlands Antilles are still heading straight for bankruptcy, even though a delegation from the International Monetary Fund is due to visit soon.

Together with, among others, Harry A. Sloek, an economist at the Central Bank of the Netherlands Antilles, the IMF could provide a solution to the following problem. As a matter of fact, however energetic Prime Minister Don Martina's party may have been in winning the 1979 elections, among other things with the slogan that they would put a stop to the patronage system (the careless giving away of government jobs) and however much he swore that economic order had to be brought to business, it was not sufficient. The civil service apparatus is still growing, albeit to a lesser degree than in the seventies. Especially, however, there is an even more serious and more troublesome problem to solve: the financing of the Netherlands Antilles.

Out of Kilter

It was only during a talk with President Ling Wong of the Central Bank and with Mr Sloek that it became apparent how much financial-economic relations had been knocked out of kilter. Following what was economically a frankly bad 1983, the necessary buffer of the Netherlands Antilles was swept away: the surplus in the balance of payments turned into a deficit. Suddenly, the full tropical sun was shining on a shaky Antillean economy: 103 to 110 million guilders in advance loans had been taken out from the Central Bank, and this in spite of the fact that this bank had once set a strict limit of 90 million guilders. In addition to these advance loans, the Martina government also financed its problems through treasury issues (at 8 to 9 percent interest) and bond loans, for a total amount of 114 million guilders in 1979.

Bonanza

By the end of 1983 the government owed 219 million guilders at 10 percent interest to third parties. Wong and Sloek: "We have lived on the bonanza of the Venezuelans and on the oil profits." Now that those are washing away, the Antilles are out on the street. Another source of income was nearly forgotten: Dutch development aid, which still amounts to 245.7 million

guilders even though Minister Jan de Koning of Netherlands Antillean Affairs keeps paring it relentlessly. For the sake of completeness one should add that part of that is good for orders and work for Dutch companies, as is proven by the construction of container ports, which cost on the order of 160 million guilders, in Curacao and Aruba.

However one says it, the Netherlands Antilles are located on the edge of the "deep blue Caribbean Sea." Consequently, few people should have been surprised when last week Thursday evening, Prime Minister Martina suddenly appeared on Antillean television and, during a speech which lasted half an hour, persuaded his compatriots that the water was up to his and his government's lips. On the preceeding Tuesday, the laughter-loving but tough boss of Shell-Curacao, 57 year old Jim Wilson (who became a naturalized Dutchman 10 years ago and now, having reached retirement age, is working on his last job: to streamline Shell-Curacao), told Don Martina informatively and not as an ultimatum per se, that the Antillean top man could make a decision: Curacao with or Curacao without Shell...

The Monday before, ELSEVIERS MAGAZINE had already had a comprehensive talk with the top man at Shell. "Doubts about the refinery already existed in the fifties," disclosed Wilson, "but during the sixties and the seventies the market was so favorable that the disadvantages of having a refinery far away from the marketing area were eliminated."

This rose-colored situation has changed drastically. For years, refineries like Shell have been fighting with an enormous over-capacity. As an illustration of the situation in the Caribbean area: the Aruban Lago refinery (of Esso) has a capacity of 300,000 barrels per day. They are producing 180,000. The same more or less applies to Shell. Texaco has a plant in Trinidad: capacity 360,000 barrels per day; production 60,000. Cargo in Puerto Rico has already been closed. Shell is also faced with the question of whether or not they will close. Wilson: "I recently calculated that our operating costs are one and a half times higher than those of Pernis in Rotterdam. My conclusion is that the standard of living of the people here is at the American or at least a European level. Compare that with the islands of St. Kitts and Trinidad. You should go take a look there."

At Shell-Curacao, where once 20,000 people worked, the wage costs must be cut by 15 percent. That is still less than the 23 percent income cut recently imposed on the dock workers. Furthermore, the Shell workers will now have to contribute something themselves to their heretofore free medical care, which also applies to the members of their families. Shell pays 26 percent in retirement allowances for its people, 4 times as much as the contributions made by the workers themselves.

Precarious

With a smiling expression on his face, Wilson said: "This is not a developing country but an industrial country. The situation is very precarious. If costs don't go down quickly and substantially, the refinery will no longer be viable. Curacao will have to be willing to be satisfied with a lower standard of living. If not, then that lower standard will undoubtedly be

imposed on Curacao by the world economy." Wilson is optimistic. Six months ago, the unions demanded an improvement of labor conditions, which came down to a 25 percent hike in the wage costs. "And this demand has been substantially reduced already," he said.

But even if Wilson gets what he wants and the refinery can once again let 400 individuals go this year ("with 1,800 workers then I should be able to manage reasonably well"), Shell will not remain exclusively Shell. Wilson expects that within a few years the Venezuelans will be able to participate, will have to participate in Shell-Curacao. This will happen when the Orenco oil is put into production. According to the top man at Shell, who is really going to retire in a few months, cooperation should then be recommended. As a matter of fact, Wilson has already had the figures drawn up showing how much the closing of the refinery would cost. With a local supply of 9 to 10 million barrels, valued at 200 to 300 million American dollars, there is enough money to neatly close the doors behind us, according to Wilson. Curacao with your more than 5,000 cars, your 20 percent unemployment and your draughty economy, goodbye!!

Worried

The talks the next Tuesday morning between Shell and the government must have been about the same, and thus Prime Minister Martina had a worried expression in his eyes when he appeared on Antillean television a few days later. Curacao with or without Shell, that was the question. Martina: "The government has made a choice for Curacao with Shell. If the free negotiations between Shell and the unions fail, then the administration will have its back against the wall. The alternative would be for the government to come up with a law which would give us the necessary authority to create the conditions under which Shell would remain in Curacao. We would prefer not to take that path, but if circumstances demand it we will have to follow that course... This is a matter of the national interest."

On Friday the newspapers were full of union indignation. A special powers act! How dare Martina! For the first time in the socio-economic history of the Netherlands Antilles, since the Royal Treaty was ratified 30 years ago, a government was reaching for a tough measure and putting a heavy hand on the good life of the relatively too expensive workers.

The next day, ELSEVIERS WEEKBLAD conducted an interview with the prime minister. It was Saturday morning, 14 January, and quiet in Fort Amsterdam. As usual, a member of the Dutch marine corps was standing guard by the governor's building at this noon hour. The tourists were walking slowly by the centuries old colonial buildings. The deep calm however was only apparent, because inside Martina had been presiding over a meeting for hours. A Curacao newspaper wrote: "Why talk about costs when we are likely to lose guilders?" It could not be more typical.

The meeting was over. Speaking about the general economic situation in the Netherlands Antilles, Prime Minister Martina said: "Together and each one separately, all the vital sectors of our economy, such as the oil sector, tourism, the off-shore sector (the name given to the Antillean route which

grants so many tax advantages to about 30,000 companies and through which the government can draw on the order of 300 million guilders in tax money -- editor) and the services sector, are faced with serious problems. As far as Shell is concerned: Shell's share in our GNP is 22 percent. Shell pays wages in the amount of \$85 million. We consider this hard currency for us. Hence, Shell is of vital importance to our social and economic life."

Shell has to stay because Shell helps. But a special powers act? Would the Netherlands Antilles, with such a unique step, not be on the road to a more authoritative regime which will tackle all problems in such a tough manner? Martina answered shortly: "No."

ELSEVIERS WEEKBLAD: Such noises can indeed be heard, and not among the lowliest of your compatriots. They point to the complex economic problems, to the vulnerability of the Antillean economy which does not produce anything and must import everything, to the uncontrollable government expenditure and to the political paralysis.

Martina: I am indeed quite well aware of all that. I am doing what, according to the government, is good for Curacao and the Antilles. I wouldn't say more authoritarian then, but with means which our government and our democratic system allow and making sure that those means are implemented in such a way that they accomplish what needs to be done.

[Question] You will not budge anymore?

[Answer] We will not budge; we have never budged.

[Question] And yet the number of government jobs was still increasing.

[Answer] I wouldn't say increasing, but the total figure is indeed slightly higher.

[Question] Are you a developing country or an industrial country? Compared to the islands of Barbados, St. Kitts and Antigua, nobody has any reason to complain here.

[Answer] We are a country in the process of developing, with characteristics of an industrialized country. I consider our country as a Third World country. What Wilson says is true, but I see it this way: a developing country means a country and people able to pay for and maintain the development themselves. We have not yet gotten that far.

Unions

[Question] You are not afraid to take harsh actions. Meanwhile, the civil servants unions are also in an uproar against your policy. Would you pursue the special powers act if the unions were to revolt?

[Answer] Of course; we have a single goal in mind and that is that we want to save Curacao. And we will do that. I have no reason at all to worry that we might go against the unions.

[Question] You mean that you are giving the unions time to reverse policy so that you can achieve your goal?

[Answer] Yes.

[Question] And then you have Wilson's assurance that Shell would stay?

[Answer] At least, then he would have to get his superiors to go along. But, as a matter of fact, if the wage costs go down as Shell wants them to, then the conditions for a positive decision would be present.

This is Curacao's position these days. The unions, including those of the lower level civil servants, are in an uproar against the retrenchments. Of course there is dissatisfaction. That is quite understandable. However necessary they may be, and however well off the Antilles are compared to other Caribbean comrades, income reductions are always difficult, but strikes... no, not yet. As far as that goes, the Antilleans rightly refer to the Dutch civil servants who have already taken to the streets for a net reduction of 3 percent, with fuller stomachs and a minimum wage which did not have to plummet from 900 guilders to 550 guilders per month over a period of a couple of years. In this manner also, however hard it may be, the Antilles and their government are trying to improve their competitive position in the relatively much cheaper and also poorer Caribbean basin.

Spoiled

The Martina government has met with a great deal of understanding for these far-reaching operations. "We are spoiled, Sir," people often admit, and a 30 year old mother of two in the Nieuw Nederland district said: "It is crazy here. The people have a 15,000 guilder house, but they have to have a 20,000 guilder car in front of the house. That cannot work well."

The Netherlands Antilles. The overseas part of the kingdom is faced with a heavy task. Political and social peace are a matter of survival for the six islands. Indeed, aside from the oil the islands stand or fall with the success of the off-shore sector, especially Curacao. And the Antillean route is not only under pressure from important renegotiations of the tax treaties with the United States and the Netherlands, but also under pressure to keep the investment climate as favorable as possible. Pirates, such as Sint Maarten, are 900 kilometers away down the coast. Many Antilleans realize by what a frayed thread the sword of Damocles is hanging.

And thus, so far there is little to indicate a really rebellious mood even if the Union of Lower Level Civil Servants blocked the streets surrounding Fort Amsterdam last Monday and union members noisily took temporary possession of the public gallery in the Antillean parliament. However, support for the civil servant actions seems rather limited. Especially the workers in the industrial and trade sectors realize full well that the civil servants are among those workers who enjoy the best labor conditions. According to a survey by the Department of Finance, the income of the country's civil servants rose by a real yearly average of 4.5 percent between 1979 and 1983.

The union actions did not escape the attention of the Aruban political leader Betico Croes. "This way, Curacao is doing a good job of going to the dogs," he said Monday afternoon in Oranjestad. According to Croes, the unrest could indicate the beginning of a general strike. "But it won't go as far as it did in May 1969," said Betico. He fully supports the idea of a special powers act as announced by the Martina government. And what if the social tensions really escalate? "Then the Martina government will have to resign immediately and a broad-based national administration set up which will also tackle the problems concerning the separate status of Aruba forcefully."

Ruins

So, the political game continues on the socio-economic ruins of the Netherlands Antilles. However, the average inhabitant of Curacao does not allow himself to get carried away. "We have learned to fight with pen and paper, Sir. We are no longer as dumb as we were in 1969." At that time there were fights in Willemstad. Workers against the Royal Marine Corps. Houses were burned to the ground. There were victims. But the Antillean economy suffered most from the aftermath of these events. For years, international apprehension of the Antilles was noticeable. Thinking about this period still produces an emotional response in government adviser Hebron Adoptie. "Anyone who would incite a repetition of 1969 today can immediately get shot as far as I am concerned." Curacao 1984 "Bon Noche." Good Night.

8463

CSO: 3214/113

DAILY VIEWS RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION

PY171925 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 3 Feb 84 p 2

[Editorial: "The Bear's Hug, Fifteen Years Later"]

[Text] The communist pro-Moscow weekly UNIDAD is the only local newspaper which, as far as we know, has recalled the establishment of full diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union 15 years ago, at the beginning of the dictatorial government of Juan Velasco Alvarado. As can be expected, the magazine said that "Peruvians commemorate with joy this 15th anniversary." Let's see if the anniversary deserves such joyful recollection.

To begin with, we have to make this point: It was a mistake of the first Belaunde government not to start relations with Russia, partly for fear that some newspapers would accuse it of communist leanings. Its cautious commercial opening toward the socialist orbit was insufficient, and it thus served the Alvarado government on a silver platter the opportunity to transform what should have been a routine diplomatic act into a propaganda event with all the trimmings of equivocal ideological connotations.

It is now clear that the formal establishment of relations between Moscow and Lima served two purposes: First, it enabled the pro-Velasco generals to put on a "progressist" coat of "good color" in Third World conclaves, although that image did not reflect the reality of their governmental actions and their private lives; and second, it enabled Moscow to take advantage of its official relations with Peru to establish a beachhead in South America, something that became more important after the overthrow of the Juan Jose Torres regime in Bolivia, and the Salvador Allende government in Chile.

As far as Peru is directly concerned, the diplomatic ties with Moscow had directly or indirectly these consequences: The communist labor movement gained the upper hand with the legalization of the Peruvian Workers General Confederation and the neutralization of the Peruvian Workers Confederation of the APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] line; the mortgaging of our national defense to the Soviet Union through the purchase of armaments, with the resulting satellization of the Peruvian foreign policy on several issues at international forums; and the possibility of an eventual depletion of the country's sea resources by Soviet fishing fleets.

Velasco, of course, set off the chain of events, but the subsequent governments of Morales Bermudez and Fernando Belaunde Terry allowed them to produce concrete results. Nobody here has so far had the courage of Anwar Sadat, who broke off Egypt's military dependency on the Soviet Union which was established by Colonel Nasser. On the contrary, the Morales Bermudez and Belaunde regimes increased the dependency.

It is not, of course, a question of breaking with the Soviet Union, a power with which we have to maintain good relations, as economically fruitful as possible, although this does not seem to be the case at this time. Nor is it the question to re-establish a condition of dependent nation vis-a-vis the United States. The question is simply to turn into reality the old and much-used APRA slogan: "Neither With Washington Nor With Moscow."

CSO: 3348/278

ACCORD REACHED IN SUGAR WORKERS-INDUSTRY WAGE TALKS

Union Demands

Basseterre THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN in English 14 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] A joint meeting of the National Agricultural Corporation, the St. Kitts Sugar Manufacturing Corporation and the St. Kitts-Nevis Trades and Labour Union was held at the NACO Offices on Church Street, Basseterre, St. Kitts this week Tuesday (10 January), for the purpose of discussing wages and other money matters in respect of the 1984 sugar crop.

NACO was represented by Messrs. L. James, W. Simmonds, C. Walwyn and W. Rogers and SSMC by Messrs V. Corbin and S. Nathaniel.

The Union was represented by Comrades Joseph N. France, Walford Gumbs, Fidel O'Flaherty, Owen Caines, Lascelles Rwalins, Ernest Osborne, Joseph Jones, George Dixon, Dudley Gumbs, Okpara Akil and J. Proctor.

The management of the sugar corporations projected a small crop for 1984, blaming bad weather conditions.

They stated that the sugar industry made a big loss in 1983 and that the overdrafts of the corporations at the Bank had thereby increased. They referred to increasing production costs--wages, spare parts, freight, etc.

For its part, the Union stressed the severe hardships being experienced by sugar workers due to a significant jump in the cost of living--rent, food, clothes, electricity, books for their children, etc. In addition, the amount of work being provided to the workers had been reduced by the employers.

The Union said that, for the confidence of the workers in the industry to be restored, management should guarantee a minimum number of days' work for workers during the dull season.

The Union proposed:

- 12 1/2% wage increase
- 5% end-of-crop bonus
- 5% dull season bonus

- 10% Christmas bonus
- retention of the incentive bonus to cane cutters

To ensure that the entire crop was harvested within the economic period, the Union proposed special cash payments to workers who worked regularly during the first week of the crop and down to Easter.

In reply, management said they could only supply work during the dull season according to the money made available to them. They proposed:

- No wage increase
- Same level of bonuses as in 1983, i.e.
- 2% end-of-crop bonus
- 2% dull season bonus
- 7% Christmas bonus

The Union referred to the special Sugar Funds set up under the Sugar Cess Acts, including the Special Wages Increase Fund, the Price Stabilisation Fund and the Rehabilitation Fund. It suggested that management should:

- discover how much money is in these Funds, and
- investigate the possibility of using some of this money to reduce the suffering of the workers.

Management said that they have no control over the sugar funds, but they undertook to get information about the state of the funds.

When the three organisations met for a second time on Thursday (12 January), the meeting was not able to move forward, mainly because the information about the sugar funds had not been obtained.

NACO/SSMC revealed that they are considering Monday 23 January as the date for the start of the 1984 crop.

Mediation Attempts

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 23 Jan 84 p 2

[Text] BASSETERRE, St. Kitts, Sunday, (CANA) — St. Kitts-Nevis acting labour commissioner Rupert Herbert has released details of recommendations he made to help settle protracted negotiations for increased wages for sugar workers.

Talks between the National Agricultural Corporation (NACO), the St. Kitts Sugar Manufacturing Association (SSMC) and the St. Kitts-Nevis Trades and Labour Union are stalemated.

Last week the union said its proposal for a 12 and a half per cent pay rise had been rejected.

In a statement Herbert said he had made the following six recommendations to the three parties in the talks:-

—The principle that the workers should receive a reasonable increase on their basic wage should be accepted.

—In view of the unique position the industry holds in the economy of the country, that Government consider further assisting the industry, on the matter of an increase for the workers.

—The Government, the corporations and the union should meet as a matter of urgency to explore the possibility of securing funds for the increase.

—That the actual level of increase should depend on the amount of money that may be identified, and

—In the interests of every citizen of this country, every effort should be made to commence reaping of the crop quickly so that full advantage can be taken of the economic period of reaping. Failure to do this will simply exacerbate the cost and revenue situation in the industry to the disadvantage of all.

NACO and SSMC have rejected the wage proposals of the union citing "hard times" for the industry.

NACO's chief executive has also said that the fall in value of the pound sterling against the dollar, will reduce the value of sugar sales to Europe. On the other hand production costs continue to rise.

Simmonds Announcement

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 28 Jan 84 p 1

[Article: "1984 Sugar Crop To Start on Monday; 13 1/2% Wage Package for Sugar Workers [not mentioned in the article]; \$.75 Million 'Goatwater' To Be Paid February 17th"]

[Text] Prime Minister, the Honourable Dr. Kennedy Simmonds in a nationwide broadcast first heard on ZIZ Radio and TV announced that the 1984 Sugar Crop will start on Monday 30th January.

The Prime Minister also announced that a Special "Goat Water" payment of \$750,000 will be paid to more than 5,000 workers in the Sugar Industry on Friday 17th February.

In making this announcement Prime Minister Simmonds gave a brief account of the negotiations between the Sugar Corporations (NACO & SSMC) and the St. Kitts, Nevis Trades and Labour Union. In so doing he was constrained to comment on the manner in which the Labour Union conducted these negotiations.

Unfortunately, the Labour Union has given the impression once again that it is not averse to employing delaying tactics and political objectives in the course of a Trade Union Role. What seems absurd to us at THE DEMOCRAT is that Wednesday's headline in the LABOUR SPOKESMAN proclaims: "Union accepts Labour Commissioner's recommendation of reasonable increase." The crux of the recommendation however is printed in their article (4) which reads:

"That the actual level of increase should depend on how much money was secured".

How is it then, that now the Minister of Labour has done exactly what was recommended in item 4 of the leading article of the LABOUR SPOKESMAN (mouth-piece of the Labour Party and Labour Union) the Labour Union suddenly finds itself unable to agree any longer?

Another very striking point is the late inclusion of St. John Payne in the proceedings before the Prime Minister. Mr. Payne did not form part of the negotiating team at any stage. But he was sent to speak to the Prime Minister about the negotiations yesterday afternoon about 2 p.m.

Last year there was no agreement with the St. Kitts-Nevis Trades and Labour Union. The Union refused to accept the recommendations of the Government concerning the 1982 Sugar Wages and the Labour politicians doubling up as Trade Union leaders went all over the country encouraging sugar workers to stay at home. Of course, we all know that the Sugar Workers proved that they have more sense than the Labour Misleaders.

CSO: 3298/499

RULING PAM RESUMES GRASSROOTS 'MEET THE PEOPLE' SESSIONS

Expansion of Program

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 21 Jan 84 pp 1, 12

[Text]

THE co-ruling People's Action Movement has once again been demonstrating to the people of St. Kitts its well-founded PEOPLE-ORIENTED STRATEGY. On Tuesday afternoon of this week, and again on Wednesday, the leaders of the St. Kitts-based Party resumed the successful series of "MEET THE PEOPLE" Meetings which they introduced at Government level in July 1982.

Between 26th July 1982 - 4th October 1982 some twenty-one (21) of these meetings were held in St. Kitts in a vigorous and intensive campaign in a novel concept in public relations which provided a platform for the unaccustomed opportunity for face to face discussion between Government and people.

These highly organised "people's workshops" were followed by a massive convention at P.A.M. International Headquarters attended by thousands of Government supporters whose collective contributions had been solicited by their leaders in the process of inevitable constitutional advancement.

The People's Action Movement have now re-opened this meaningful programme of grassroots public discussion - this time with a difference! PAM this week is now conducting these "MEET THE PEOPLE" Sessions in the roads, in the streets, in the alleys, and the byways, in town and country.

Old Road was the meeting-place for PAM on Tuesday, and the entourage moved to Tabernacle on Wednesday. Led in Old Road by the President of PAM the Honourable Dr. Kennedy Simmonds and Barrister-at-Law Miss Constance Mitcham PAM representative for the new Challengers - Half Way Tree constituency, and led in Tabernacle by Dr. Simmonds and Businessman Mr. Roy Jones, J.P., PAM representative for the new Ottley's - Belle Vue constituency, the group of visiting officials included Dr. William Herbert, the Honourable Sidney Morris, the Honourable Richard Caines (the Honourable Michael O. Powell was out of the country on Government business) the other members of the PAM Executive, members of the PAM Women's Group, and a number of young PAMITES, as well as a hefty contingent of key PAM members in both villages. Both Old Road and Tabernacle are represented by leading Labour operatives, but it is plain to see the villages have been terribly neglected by Lee Moore and St. John Payne, and the people are just waiting for the opportunity to elect Lawyer Mitcham and Mr. Roy Jones. At the end of the extensive visit through the gutted and unpaved roads pointed out by the people of Tabernacle, one old man was heard asking another "You think they have seen enough?" It was an obvious reference to their feeling of being left out after 30 years of Labour representation. From the plans discussed by the PAM leadership on the tired but happy journey back home, the answer is "Yes, people of Tabernacle, PAM has seen enough", and PAM has seen that you have had enough of Labour!!!

Labor on Election Activity

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 26 Jan 84 p 7

[Text] BASSETERRE, St. Kitts, January 26, (CANA):

The St. Kitts-Nevis opposition Labour Party says it believes general elections are imminent here.

An editorial in its official organ the **Labour Spokesman** said "members of the Government are engaged in serious election canvassing," including

house-to-house campaigning in certain areas of St. Kitts.

"If elections are not coming soon it is difficult to understand the intensity of that trend of activity," the paper added

General elections are constitutionally due here in the first half of 1985.

The Labour Party was routed in the last poll on February 18, 1980 by a

coalition of the Peoples Action Movement (PAM) and the Nevis Reformation Party (NRP)

Labour won four seats to the coalition five (PAM three, NRP two) in the nine-seat Parliament

The Labour spokesman said the parties in power were making "a desperate attempt to buy the voters," evidenced by the way "the Government is playing generous with money."

CSO: 3298/499

PRAISE FOR GOVERNMENT HANDLING OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 21 Jan 84 p 8

[Text] Recent reports by the CANA News Agency have quoted Caribbean Development Bank President, William Demas, as criticising some regional governments for not adopting a realistic approach to economic development, and for not facing up to some of the economic problems of the region.

He referred specifically to Public Utilities which, he said, were not paying their way. He charged, quite correctly, that several governments were charging unrealistic rates for the public utilities which they are operating.

Most of us in St. Kitts and Nevis would know that the PAM/NRP Government has been upgrading and improving the public utilities of the country in keeping with the Government's strategy of improving the quality of life to all. It has already implemented a programme to make the electricity supply more reliable, and has extended the service into several areas previously not catered for in St. Kitts and Nevis.

It is also well known that the Government has made more telephone lines available to Nevis, as well as to most areas of St. Kitts - particularly the Basseterre, Bird Rock, Harbour View, Suncrest, and the economically important Frigate Bay and Industrial Estate Sites.

The Prime Minister in his New Year's Address gave examples of how efficient communications benefit the small man when investors can be convinced to establish businesses here because communications and other infrastructure are of a satisfactory standard. The small man automatically benefits by securing employment at the newly established businesses.

Just as important, however, are the savings and increased efficiency which results from improved communications. For instance, because of the far-sightedness of this Government, business firms operating at different locations can communicate easily, thus saving time and money. If, say, the firm of C.E. Jenkins could not have a telephone at the Ross University at West Farm - as would have

been the case under a Labour Government - every time his office in Basseterre or any other person wanted to get in touch with C.E. Jenkins, they would either have to drive to West Farm or wait until they were lucky enough to see Mr. Jenkins. Either approach would have been inefficient and costly in time and money. But the PAM/NRP Government has changed all that and has made it possible to

increase efficiency and productivity.

The same improvement in efficiency and productivity has been brought about by the Government's sensible approach to providing a reliable electricity service as was pointed out by the Honourable Richard Caines in the last Budget Debate.

Consequently the Government has provided for phased increases in the cost of electricity.

And Demas fully agrees with this approach. However, the Labour Misleaders have opposed it and now stand condemned by the views of the CDB President.

All citizens should take note and stand behind the PAM/NRP Government's efforts to build a proper economic climate, and provide more and better services to the residents of this 'Our Land of Beauty'.

CSO: 3298/500

TECHNICAL EXPERTS FROM TAIWAN ON FAMILIARIZATION VISIT

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 21 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] Arriving in the State on Saturday were a four-man team of Technical Experts from the Republic of China (Taiwan) on a five-day familiarisation visit to St. Kitts and Nevis.

The delegation was headed by Mr. Peter Cheng. Other members of the team are Mr. Shao Tsai Chien - a Rice Expert, Mr. Ting Lang Huang - a Fisheries Expert and Mr. Tsau Hong Su - an Agriculturalist.

Their visit here is part of the ongoing Technical Programme of assis-

tance being given to the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis by the Taiwanese Government.

Since February 1982 two Agricultural Experts have been working at La Guerite demonstrating the technology of small farming to locals and following an evaluation of this project, the visiting Experts have found out that this State can be self-sufficient in top quality Cabbages, Sweet Peppers, Cucumbers, Cauliflower, Broccoli Onions and Water-Melons, in the not-too-distant future.

While here, the Taiwanese team, accompanied by Mr. Ralph Wilkin Fisheries Officer and Mr. Campbell Evelyn of the Agricultural Department, also visited various projects on the island, including the Shrimp Farm at Conaree.

The group, also met and held discussions with Permanent Secretaries, Mr. Eugene Petty in the Ministries in the Ministry of Agriculture and Mr. Calvin Farier in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

CSO: 3298/500

BRIEFS

SUGAR INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT PLAN--Basseterre, St Kitts, 7 Feb (CANA)--The St Kitts/Nevis Government says it has secured the services of the British Development Division (BDD) in the Caribbean to produce a 10-year development plan for the sugar industry here. A Government Information Service statement said the disclosure was made during a meeting yesterday attended by Minister of Agriculture Michael Powell, official at the BDD, sugar producers, and union representatives. The statement said the meeting considered that particular attention should be paid to land utilisation practices, improvement in transportation, soil erosion, administration and management, the scope for expanded use of sugar industry by-products, and the industry's long-term prospects. Represented at the meeting were the National Agricultural Corporation (NACO), the St Kitts/Nevis Sugar Manufacturing Corporation (SSMC), the British Development Division, and the St Kitts/Nevis Trades and Labour Union. [Text] [FL071915 Bridgetown CANA in English 1610 GMT 7 Feb 84]

SUGAR WORKERS RECEIVE BONUS--St Kitts, 17 Feb (CANA)--Sugar workers in St Kitts today received over 800,000 dollars (one E.C. dollar ; 37 cents U.S.) as a special "goatwater" bonus payment on their earnings last year. The bonus, calculated at five per cent of their 1983 income from the industry was promised to the workers by Prime Minister Dr Kennedy Simmonds during his new year's message. The money came from a Taiwanese loan of one million dollars (U.S.) to the St Kitts/Nevis Government. The prime minister said on new year's day that the rest of the money will be used to complete a housing project in Basseterre and to make a down payment on the sugar lands acquired by government in 1974. A government release today did not mention the housing project or payment for the sugar lands, but said that "834,972 E.C. dollars was distributed to field workers, factory employers, pensioners, office staff and water-front workers." [Text] [FL172358 Bridgetown CANA in English 2227 GMT 17 Feb 84]

ELECTORAL COMMISSION--His Excellency the Governor-General, Sir Clement Arrindell by virtue of Section 33 of the Constitution has appointed the following persons to the Electoral Commission for St. Christopher and Nevis: Mr. Frank C. Henville Q.C., O.B.E. (Chairman); Mrs. Celia Lindo-Butler LL.B. - Member; Sir Maurice Davis Q.C., O.B.E. - Member. Further in accordance with the undertaking given by the Government in the National Assembly when the House of Assembly Elections Ordinance (Amendment) Act, 1983 was debated and passed into Law on 1st November, 1983 draft Elections

Registration Regulations have been delivered to the Leader of the Opposition Mr. Lee L. Moore for his constructive comments prior to their finalization. These Regulations seek to put into effect the Government's stated policy of introducing a system of continuous registration which will permit the greatest possible ease of registration for all persons qualified to vote. The new legislation also seeks to give effect to the Government's stated policy of enabling all persons 18 years and over to exercise their Constitutional right to register and vote. [Text] [Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 28 Jan 84 p 12]

CSO: 3298/500

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF CRISIS IN EXPORT OF ARROWROOT

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 10 Feb 84 p 10

[Article by Reudon Eversley]

[Text] KINGSTOWN, Thurs., (Cana-Reuter):

ST. VINCENT and the Grenadines, the Caribbean's sole commercial producer of arrowroot, is finding the going tough with a loss of important markets which has brought a cash flow crisis and threatens the future of the key industry.

Officials, however, are confident the industry will soon see better days.

"I would hate to think the industry is going to die. I'm optimistic we are going to get out of this major problem," said Freddie Ollivierre, General Manager of the State-run Arrowroot Industry Association.

The industry's problems started back in 1981 when the Association lost its main, then almost unrivalled United States market. Cheaper arrowroot starch from Brazil and China penetrated the market, knocking the local product almost clean out of contention.

A similar situation, but on a smaller scale, also developed on the Association's other major market in the United Kingdom. Unable to find new buyers, the Association now has over two million pounds of the powdery, white starch stockpiled in its Kingstown warehouses, including

all from the 1982-83 crop.

Arrowroot ranks second to bananas as a foreign exchange earner in the predominant agricultural sector. A Government official said the industry's contribution to Gross National Production (GNP) is around 10 per cent.

Exports in 1983 brought in \$2 million (one EC dollar; 37 cents U.S.) in hard currency. But when the industry was seeing good times, the figure was as high as \$5 million, officials say.

Up to 1980, the Association was assured of selling all the starch it produced to the U.K. and U.S., but from 1981, sales started to slide. Of the 1.6 million pounds produced that year, just 391,000 were exported against 1980 when 1.4 million of the 1.5 million pounds produced were sold.

OUTPUT PLAN

So far, the Association has not sold any of the 1983-84 crop, already underway, is 2.1 million pounds.

"The solution to our present problems is finding markets. We are going to do some positive things in '84 and I feel we can come out at the end of the year with substantial sales," Ollivierre said.

As a result of the shortfall in revenue,

the Association has run up a \$6 million (EC) overdraft. The cash flow problem could have been more severe, but a \$2 million interest-free loan made available by the Government to the Association last year helped ease the situation considerably, according to the arrowroot industry chief.

In fact, "were it not for the Government which has backed us financially and otherwise, we would have had to close down long ago," Ollivierre said.

The Association blames the loss of the two key markets on buyers who had high mark-ups for the commodity.

In a bid to recapture its traditional markets, the Association has cut its price by about 37 per cent to 45 cents (U.S.) per pound, bringing it in line with competitors but at a loss to the industry. The previous price was 72 cents.

The Association has subsequently had to cut prices to farmers, and officials fear a reduction in acreage as a result. About 1,000 acres, mainly marginal land along the east coast, are presently under cultivation.

The Association is also hunting for new markets in Canada and in the Caribbean Community (Caricom) to dis-

pose of the huge stocks of starch. Contacts have already been made in Antigua, St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago.

It also plans to mount a local promotion drive using radio and newspaper advertisements to tell Vincentian consumers about the myriad uses of arrowroot starch. If the plan is successful, the campaign could be extended to neighbouring countries, Ollivierre said.

CHEAPER

St. Vincent arrowroot starch is used in the manufacture of computer print-out paper but the discovery of cheaper alternatives has produced stiff competition.

The starch is used in food processing, in the manufacture of cosmetics, as well as in cooking — for instance in thickening gravies and in arrowroot pudding.

The industry permanently employs 28 people but during reaping of the crop, which can take up to five months, over 2,000 people find employment.

Ollivierre said the Association is using the present lean period to review operations and chart a new course for the industry. Emphasis is on improving efficiency and cutting back costs to ensure the industry's viability in the long term.

BRIEFS

ATTACK ON TRINIDAD-TOBAGO--Kingstown, Thurs., (Cana): St. Vincent and the Grenadines Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hudson Tannis, has said that Trinidad and Tobago is too harsh on illegal immigrants, and has called for a revision of the relevant laws to make them more tolerant. Tannis agreed that persons entering the twin-island republic illegally should be punished, but said it was "a bit inhuman" to arrest them, carrying them before a magistrate, send them to prison for three months and then deport them. He suggested that instead of taking such "harsh" measures, the Trinidad and Tobago authorities could contact the governments of the countries of nationality of any offenders to seek to have the cost of their return passages remitted. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 10 Feb 84 p 13]

CSO: 3298/503

CENTRAL BANK DISCUSSES FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONTROLS

FL180200 Bridgetown CANA in English 2132 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, 17 Jan (CANA)--The Trinidad and Tobago Central Bank has announced the simplification of recently introduced foreign exchange control measures, criticised at home and abroad as constituting an obstacle to trading within the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

Following is the text of the statement:

"On Monday, 7 October 1983, the Central Bank, after consultation with the Ministry of Finance and Planning, implemented new exchange control procedures for visible imports.

"These procedures involved the introduction of forms EC-0 which requires importers to apply in advance for the release of foreign exchange to purchase imports of goods.

"By this measures the Central Bank sought to (1) achieve a better allocation of our available and shrinking foreign exchange resources as between essential and non-essential goods and (2) develop a system for monitoring the activity of importing in Trinidad and Tobago.

"Because of the necessity to introduce the measure on a specific date, the new procedures trapped orders for goods which had already been made, as well as goods which were enroute or which had been cleared from customs but not yet paid for.

"Although the bank firmly anticipated that a backlog would ensue, the size of the backlog was quite large and it took longer than initially anticipated to clear the backlog.

"The initial operation of the system also revealed areas of difficulty for importers both in respect of the form EC-0 itself and some aspects of the procedures required for compliance.

"Some of these areas of difficulty were promptly addressed and rectified by the bank. For example, we indicated that the SITC code and the price per unit of the item to be imported were no longer necessary.

"In addition, we also indicated that documentary evidence in respect of the previous years imports need not be submitted, though the exchange control department retained, and still retains discretion in requesting the submission or the re-submissions of such documentary evidence.

"In order to assist the processing of the backlog of applications, the Central Bank allowed the commercial banks to process for a specified period of time EC-0 applications where payment was to be effected under letters of credit already established or on open account.

"This expedient worked very well and assisted immensely in reducing expeditiously the then existing backlog.

"As a result of several meetings held with representatives of various business organisations with the involvement of the Ministry of Finance and Planning and the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs, the bank was able to further clarify areas of doubt or difficulty and to rationalise and improve the format of form EC-0.

"In addition, for the convenience of importers, primarily the manufacturers, the bank has introduced groupings of items for which only one EC-0 form is necessary.

"This will undoubtedly assist the importer as well as significantly reduce the volume of applications which the exchange control department will have to process.

"It must be emphasised that the grouping codes must be strictly adhered to and where an imported item does not fall within an approved grouping code, the individual item tariff (CCCN) number must be used.

"The bank has also discontinued the requirement that EC-1 applications in excess of 120,000 dollars (TT) be approved by the exchange control department, thus further reducing the inconvenience and delays the importer has faced.

"All of the modifications to the new exchange control procedures make it easier for the importer but do not in any way compromise the administration of the system or the achievement of its ultimate objectives.

"Our administrative arrangements are now fairly well settled and we anticipate that once the grouping codes are employed, the turnaround time for applications may be at most five days.

"We will also be looking at ways and means of serving the south and Tobago better and perhaps of decentralising the approval of EC-OS for low value imports.

"In view of the streamlining of the system and of the procedures to take full account of suggestions from all parties concerned and of the banks' own experience, it is now incumbent on the importer to modify and improve his systems to provide the data we request and to play his activities to take adequate account of the new procedures.

"We expect the cooperation of importers in this regard.

"The Central Bank takes this opportunity to publicly thank the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs, the commercial banks, and various business organisations for their cooperation in all phases of the implementation of the EC-0 procedures.

"In conclusion, the Central Bank and the Ministry of Finance and Planning remain firmly committed to the new procedures for the conservation and better utilisation of our foreign exchange reserves.

"In 1983, our foreign exchange reserves fell by 2,120 million dollars or 30 per cent, leaving the country with 5,000 million dollars in reserves or approximately nine months worth of imports.

"It is imperative that the rate of decline of our foreign exchange reserves be slowed and that the foreign exchange we actually consume is used for purposes which will expand production and exports and maintain employment.

"The classes of goods we have identified for reduced allocations in 1984 reflect these concerns and are indicated in the attachment.

"It is important that citizens help us to make the system work and that selfish interest be subordinated to the long-run benefit of the country.

"The Central Bank stands ready to listen to the suggestions of all sections of the community on how the system can be further improved and how it can be made to work even more smoothly." (end of statement)

CSO: 3298/1121

DAILY DISCUSSES COLOMBIAN-JAMAICAN JOINT VENTURE

FL171900 Bridgetown CANA in English 1807 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, 17 Jan (CANA)--The TRINIDAD EXPRESS said today that Jamaica's decision to explore the possibility of a joint venture in an aluminium smelter with Colombia was further proof of the current state of the fragmentation of Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

"News that Jamaica is now exploring the possibility of joint investment in an aluminium smelter with Colombia is even more proof of just how fragmented the regional integration movement has become," the paper said.

It felt that was all the more reason why the CARICOM Council of Ministers conference due to take place in Guyana at month-end "assumes critical significance."

The paper traced the developments surrounding the aluminium smelter plan which first surfaced in the 1970's with talks between Trinidad and the then Michael Manley regime in Jamaica that "never got too far."

Trinidad and Tobago has since turned "inwards" on the subject, the EXPRESS said, adding that this country has been exploring the idea of having its own plant, "an unlikely project in a situation of a local economic downturn."

"The upshot, in the end, is that a project that might have seriously advanced regional industry, and integration, now lies dormant, somewhat like the old persistent but seemingly unreachable dream of a West Indian nation," the paper said.

Recalling Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister George Chambers' budget promise to seek barter arrangements with a number of trading partners to alleviate the "widening imbalance" of trade the "EXPRESS" hoped this issue would be raised at the Georgetown meeting.

"Hopefully, these discussions, and proposals will be aired as early as the end of this month at the CARICOM trade ministers' meeting," it said.

"Things have undoubtedly reached a low enough ebb in regional relations to warrant an urgent, serious and frank discussion of the problems.

"The sooner we launch on this, the better for all concerned," the EXPRESS said.

CENTRAL BANK ANNOUNCES REDUCED IMPORT ALLOCATION

FL172049 Bridgetown CANA in English 1900 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, 17 Jan (CANA)--The Trinidad and Tobago Central Bank has announced deep cuts in foreign exchange allocation for importation of a list of items including foodstuff, cars, television sets, high-fashion garments, and jewellery.

In a statement, the bank said the cutbacks, ranging from below 25 per cent to 100 per cent, were in keeping with government's efforts to check the rundown of its foreign exchange reserves.

"In 1983, our foreign reserves fell by 120 million dollars (one TT dollar; 41 cents U.S.) or 30 per cent, leaving the country with 5,000 million dollars," the bank said yesterday.

It was imperative, the bank said, that the rate of decline of this oil-rich state's foreign reserves be slowed and that the foreign exchange it consumes be used for purposes "which will expand production and exports and maintain employment."

The bank said that the classes of goods it had identified for reduced allocations in 1984 reflected these concerns about the decline of foreign exchange.

Neither the bank's statement or an accompanying list made any reference to imports from the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) whose members have found a lucrative market in Trinidad and Tobago.

On the list, foreign exchange allocations for meats and fish will be cut back by "up to 25 per cent." Other items listed in this bracket are: fresh vegetables, alcoholic beverages, perfumes, leather articles, jewellery, household appliances, toys, and cut flowers.

Twelve classes of items were listed by the bank for cutbacks of 26 to 50 per cent, including processed vegetables, nuts and fruits, and cereals.

The others in this bracket are: confectionery, fruit juices, food preparations, alcoholic beverages, high fashion garments, china and ceramic articles, household appliances, TV receivers, video recorders, tape decks, and emigration (meaning money allowed for foreign travel).

The following are the classes of items to be subjected to cutbacks of 51 to 100 per cent: other processed vegetables, fruits and nuts, caviar and caviar substitutes, cereal preparations, beverages (alcoholic and non-alcoholic), passenger cars BU (completely built-up units).

The bank said that it may, in its discretion, alert or add to the list of items or vary the percentage cutback applied to any item or class of items "at any time."

CSO: 3298/1121

GOVERNMENT TO PROPOSE BARTER TO TRADING PARTNERS

FL121955 Bridgetown CANA in English 1709 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Report by Rudi Williams]

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, 12 Jan (CANA)--Trinidad and Tobago, worried about a widening visible trade deficit, is hoping to reach an agreement on bartering with a number of countries, Prime Minister George Chambers has said.

Chambers did not identify the countries with which he said his government would have discussions sometime this year, but the TRINIDAD EXPRESS newspaper today said the main focus would be other Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member countries, whose most lucrative market is Trinidad and Tobago.

Presenting his 9.2 billion dollar (one TT dollar; 41 cents U.S.) budget in Parliament yesterday, Chambers said: "The government has become increasingly concerned at the widening imbalance in trade between Trinidad and Tobago and a number of its trading partners."

"Perhaps some of the countries with whom we trade may wish to consider accepting some of our products in exchange for the goods which they have been shipping to us in increasingly large volumes." Chambers continued: "One obvious example of such counter trade is the exchange of (Trinidad and Tobago's) iron and steel for motor vehicles."

Japan is the largest supplier of CKD (completely knocked down) vehicles for Trinidad's car assembly industry. The Caribbean state has had problems finding markets for its fledgling iron and steel industry.

Trinidad and Tobago recorded an adverse visible trade balance of 627 million dollars for the first seven months of last year, with the CARICOM deficit being 95 million dollars. The overall deficit for the corresponding period in 1982 was 477 million dollars, the CARICOM deficit amounting to 54 million dollars.

At the end of 1982, Trinidad and Tobago experienced its first overall deficit since 1973 as the country's foreign exchange reserves declined by 525 million dollars, the Central Bank annual report for that year stated. Under the heading of payments for merchandise, the bank noted the deficit was 1,456.6 million dollars in 1982.

The TRINIDAD EXPRESS today backed Chambers' barter plan. It said his "proposal for barter trade within CARICOM" was "a realistic assessment of the declining trade opportunities for Trinidad and Tobago in the regional common market."

According to the paper, the current economic downturn affecting the region has resulted in the market being virtually closed to Trinidad and Tobago's goods and services. "The way out may well be to barter," the paper said.

CSO: 3298/1121

BARBADOS' ADAMS COMMENTS ON DISPUTE WITH TRINIDAD-TOBAGO

TV Interview

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 12 Feb 84 p 1

[Text]

IN a television interview on Friday night, the Prime Minister of Barbados, Mr. Tom Adams, said that while a lot of emphasis had been put on his statement calling Trinidad and Tobago's High Commissioner Basil Pitt a liar, no one was paying any attention to the fact that he (Adams) was contradicted by this country's Minister of External Affairs, Dr. Basil Ince.

Mr Adams said it was unprecedented for a foreign minister to contradict a head of government.

Mr. Adams was being interviewed by Trinidad and Tobago Television on relations between the two countries. He was asked if he had any

idea when a Barbados High Commissioner would be accredited to Trinidad and Tobago.

He replied that such a question should be directed at the Trinidad and Tobago Government, who was the one that said it was not convenient for a Barbados diplomat to be based in Trinidad, sometime in October last year.

Mr. Adams added, however, that the rift was purely of a protocol nature, and he was positive that relations would continue along the lines of mutual cooperation that existed before.

He added that it was extraordinary that Mr. Pitt, at the time of

the Grenada invasion, had remembered all points of their conversation except the fact of the invasion. This included that he (Adams) would not be able to attend the emergency Caricom Heads of Government Conference because he had to be in Barbados to coordinate security arrangements.

Barbados, Jamaica and Eastern Caribbean states joined the United States-led invasion of Grenada after the Revolutionary Military Council had seized power following the killing of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and Cabinet colleagues.

Trinidad and Tobago came out strongly against the invasion.

Denunciation of Adams

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 13 Feb 84 p 10

[Text]

FROM his reported banning from the Government radio station of the catchy Barbadian topical song, "Boots, Boots, Government Boots," it might be deduced that Prime Minister Tom Adams lacks a sense of humour.

I say this because one of our gipsy weeklies reported sometime ago that in a speech in Parliament justifying the invasion of Grenada, Mr. Adams made the claim that he was so popular in Trinidad that if he contested an election here against our Prime Minister, Mr. George Chambers, he would win.

It may be a case of distance lending enchantment to the view or it could be swelled-headedness or of getting too big for his boots or just sheer "merry thoughts," as an old friend used to say.

It must be the last for Mr. Adams must know that he does not qualify to stand for election in Trinidad and Tobago and that he cannot vote here. Don't tell me that he has an ID card.

Let me remember to say that the banned song, which has had much play on radio here, is a protest against the increasing militarisation

of Barbados released before the Grenada invasion in which Mr. Adams vied for the most hawk-like part with Miss Marie Eugenia Charles, the Prime Minister of Dominica.

A certain former Prime Minister was known to be an admirer of the doughty St. Vincent Carib war leader, Chateaugai. I am not sufficiently knowledgeable of the Caribs of Dominica to say which Dominica Carib chieftainess inspires the strident bellicosity of "Tantie Marie" when she inveighs against Cuban scholarships or for the ouster of

Guyana from the Caribbean Community.

Mr. Adams has been involved in the invasion of the St. Vincent Grenadines in response to a call for help from the St. Vincent Government. Besides, he has defied the criticism of the Opposition in Parliament and placed a volunteer youth corps under the Barbados regiment rather than under civilian auspices. Then followed the engineered invasion predicated on the perceived threat to the safety of islands with the ocean between them miles from one another.

Barbados, it was claimed, was a model of the freedom of expression of opinion. But why did the Government party's organ come out in favour of control of the

news media and when there was protest the Government was forced to dissociate itself?

Why the banning from the radio of an innocuous song though perhaps it

was lese majeste to mention Tom in it? And why the ouster of journalist Rickey Singh?

All this points to an undesirable trend and, to

crown it all, why should Mr. Adams have added to his excesses by going to New Delhi and pouring the vials of his ridicule on the head of the Head of a Caricom member state?

CSO: 3298/506

PANDAY SAYS CHAMBERS READY TO RECOMMEND WAGE FREEZE

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 13 Feb 84 p 1

[Text]

THE MANNER in which Prime Minister George Chambers addressed the annual PNM convention, on Friday, "shows clearly that he is recommending a wage freeze in all sectors of the economy. And it seems as though he does not understand that the trade unions in this country will never concede to a wage freeze, in the absence of mechanism which will ensure that the cost of living will remain stable," said Opposition leader Basdeo Panday.

Mr. Panday made the comments on Saturday, and said he intended to speak out in detail shortly, on the Prime Minister's statement at the conference. Mr. Panday said:

"Mr. Chambers continues to demonstrate an almost total lack of understanding of what is going on in the country, and what has to be done to resolve the problem.

Minister of Mars, who had just come down for a visit, and found all of these problems existing.

"The fact remains that the Government itself is responsible for all the problems the nation now faces, and it has taken no steps at all to correct its own mal-administration, but expects the people of this country to endure suffering."

Mr. Panday said it seemed as though the Prime Minister believed that he could postpone decision-making on every major issue, by merely announcing that he had set up a committee to look into a particular matter. "That is an old strategy, of which the nation is well aware."

Mr. Panday added that Mr. Chambers was not going to solve any problem unless he took the advice in the Demas Report, and that was to set up institutions to unite the nation.

BIGGEST OFFENDER

"It is strange that Mr. Chambers talks about cutting out overtime, in order to increase job opportunities, when in the public sector, particularly in some of the State enterprises, the Government continues to be the greatest offender.

"It is either that Mr. Chambers does not know what is going in the country, or he continues to feel that he can deceive the nation."

Mr. Panday said Mr. Chambers behaved as though he was the Prime

CSO: 3298/505

DRUG ABUSE, CRIME DEPLORED; GOVERNMENT RESPONSE ASSESSED

Call for Unified Action

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 12 Feb 84 p 13

[Article by Aubrey Adams]

[Excerpts] Anyone who pretends that the daily crime rate in our country is not disconcerting is either totally unaware of what's happening or is just being hypocritical or plain silly.

Alarming Situation

The situation is definitely alarming. How else can one explain the daily reports of such heinous crimes where it seems that human life has no value and shooting and stabbing are treated like a game or pastime.

The guard dog population in the country has increased tremendously as it has become necessary for almost every family to keep several of these dogs as part of their own security measures.

No company or organisation now functions without security guards. And it has even become necessary for guards to be stationed at our schools.

Armed guards, Doberman and German Shephard dogs form part of the daily scene of office and factory life. We now cannot live without them.

As for the weed and drug scene, that is bewildering.

It is incredible that for a country with a population of under two million there is such a large-scale drug problem. The marijuana raids by the police are endless. They are really trying to curb drug trafficking.

We seem to have our own drug organisations operating right under the noses of the police. It's real big business and the poor, young, ill-advised youths, and in some cases school children are being used as pawns in the hands of the ruthless operators who are out not only to become rich off drugs and immorality, but seem hell-bent on ruining our society as well.

In our country, apart from the employed, there are two other types--the unemployed and the unemployable. The number in the latter is astonishing, to

say the least. And seems that those under that heading have restored to a life of crime and violence, as a source of income. [as published]

Revolvers are whipped out in Western style on the slightest provocation. Shootouts between bandits and the police have been as regular as the shoot-outs on television. And gunslingers are often caught bringing arms into the country from foreign sources.

Things have gotten to such a sordid state that Penguin was compelled to compose a calypso on the grim situation, entitled, "We Living In Jail". Just listening to that calypso leaves one depressed and concerned to know that he is singing about Trinidad and Tobago.

Are we so devoid of our own personalities and character that we can be so easily influenced by the trash and ugliness of the metropolitan gangsters and hoodlums? One must also ask foreign agents responsible for this rage of violence these crimes and the attitude that human life is nothing and that at the drop of a pin, people must be shot, brutally murdered, ravished and beaten up to the extent that the Press could now feature a daily column on crimes.

We must also question whether our churches and their leaders, whether our schools are giving proper guidance. For if this is the sort of human beings we have been turning out from our educational and spiritual organisations, then we have failed miserably.

If ever there was a time for unity, it's now. We must join forces, irrespective of politics, religion, class, to take positive action to curb, if not wipe out the crimes, the violence, which have upset our lives.

Everything must be done to introduce new values and thinking. Strong efforts must be made to prevent further moral decay and perversion. The old must try to save the young and the young must be taught to save themselves from the evil forces in our midst. Delay would only cause further decay, further perversion, leading ultimately to the destruction of the society. [as published]

Police Activity

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 12 Feb 84 p 6

[Editorial]

[Text]

WE were encouraged to hear reports last week that the Minister of National Security, Mr. John Donaldson initiated investigations into the allegations contained in a letter published anonymously in this newspaper last Sunday.

The writer charged that when a phone call was made for help the police suggested that the caller go personally to the station.

Mr. Donaldson must also have been responding to a report on the incidence of crime which we published on page one and our editorial calling on him to take some action. His response was most welcome and we sincerely hope that he will bring to bear his authority in ordering better policing which is the only way we can cut down on crime.

It is all well and good for the Commissioner of Police to say that crime (like flies or the poor) is always with us. What we must not do is fold our hands and allow the criminals to have full sway as they have been doing.

Mr. Donaldson may not be aware of it but few people are impressed by the dramatic raids such as the one carried out last weekend by the police which snapped up more than 100 alleged law-breakers. Apart from questioning how many of these people are ever brought to court, people are openly cynical about the way these raids are always attended by the maximum of publicity.

We must assume that the police knew where these people were and one wonders why they were not picked up before. Why do the police wait to move on dozens at the same time? Could it be for the sake of dramatic impact on the minds of the public? Who are these people anyway? Are they ever charged and taken to court? Are they really criminals, are just anybody hauled into the net for the sake of effect?

We would be much more impressed if street patrols were so plentifully multiplied that lawbreakers reduce dramatically their violence, their breakings, their muggings, and their other illegal activities.

We are much more impressed if street patrols were so plentifully multiplied that lawbreakers reduce dramatically their violence, their breakings, their muggings, and their other illegal activities.

We would be much more impressed if we are sure that police response to requests from citizens

for speedy help are dealt with promptly, that police are made so technologically up-to-date that those few criminals who escape early arrest will know beyond any doubt that their days of nasty profits are over. We would be much more impressed, if we know that the Commissioner is investigating every alleged infraction by his officers and men of citizens' rights and that he is prepared to move against violators for these without regard to rank, length of service or any other irrelevant criteria.

LOW MORALE

Our own investigations have revealed that morale in the Police Service is low. One reason advanced is the creation of elite squads, under Commissioner Burroughs, who appear to have more rights than others. Our investigations reveal that members of these special squads are not above giving orders to officers senior in rank and that in many instances this has seriously affected the smooth running of some police stations.

We do not know if this is in fact the case, but if it is then something must be done to bring the service back into line with what went on before and where discipline is seriously practised.

One of the complaints is the length of time it takes to discipline policemen and again if this is so, something must be done to speed up matters and impress on all concerned the even higher than usual standard of discipline and service that are expected from the Police Service.

Having said that we now wish to make a point. Efforts were made last week on the part of the police to find out the identity of the letter writer on the grounds that if the person came forward it would help the authorities to nail the policeman who had refused to take the report on the 'phone. As a responsible newspaper we never reveal the names of readers who request anonymity and in dealings with the police we cannot blame them. The police, it must be said, are not above harassing people.

That aside we are pleased to see the Minister responding to our call and we wish him success in providing us with the protection of a Police Service of which we can all be proud.

CHAMBERS, IN ADDRESS TO PNM, NOTES CONCERN OVER CRIME

Speech to Closing Session

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 13 Feb 84 p 1

[Article by John Babb]

[Text] Prime Minister George Chambers expressed his increasing concern last night about crime in the country, more particularly so during the last few months. He said there were too many incidents of rape and robbery.

As a result, Government, he said, would bring to Parliament, at the earliest possible date, legislation dealing with the whole Sexual Offences Act. It would deal with the whole question of assault on women.

In winding up the three-day PNM convention at Chaguaramas Convention Centre, Mr. Chambers said he had also asked National Security Minister, Mr. John Donaldson, to give the necessary directions to the Police and Immigration to rid the country of the increasing number of illegal immigrants.

"I understand if you walk up Queen Street, "you cannot detect a Trinidadian selling on the pavement. "Get them out of the country," the Prime Minister appealed to Mr. Donaldson. [as published]

In his wide-ranging address to party members, Mr. Chambers also hinted that he may pay some visits abroad this year.

He wanted to meet people at the highest level for discussions on what should be done to correct the growing imbalance of trade between Trinidad and Tobago and those countries he planned to visit.

Discussions towards this end, he said, were taking place between himself and the Minister of External Affairs.

Resuming Tours

Prime Minister Chambers also announced his intention to continue his meet-the-people tours. And in this respect, he has planned a one-week visit to San Fernando, starting March 10.

He wanted to be exposed to wider interest groups he declared--trade unions, manufacturing organisations, teaching fraternities, "and a number of other organisations where I feel I need to speak to them to emphasise the message of self-reliance, and the need to earn foreign exchange," he declared.

Mr. Chambers, replying to "an extremely important point" raised by the Tobago delegates on the convention floor, said the matter of establishing a branch of the Ministry of Information in Tobago was being looked at with some urgency.

In respect of complaints on widespread discrimination in employment in Tobago, against PNM members he hinted of the proposal to set up a labour exchange in Tobago through which all recruitment will be done.

While pledging not to get into any quarrels with anybody during 1984, Mr. Chambers said there were certain matters on which he had proposed during this year, to devote a great deal of personal attention.

One of them was agricultural diversification and food production, with particular reference to the future of Caroni--how to maximise Caroni's 50,000-acre land space into one giant food basket.

He also planned to give some attention to the export drive.

Focus on Tobago

Mr. Chambers also said he planned "to give increasing attention to Tobago during 1984, making the presence of both the party, and the Government felt with a little more weight than has been happening during the last 18 months.

The Prime Minister also noted the strength of the party's feeling on resuming a party newspaper.

He said he intended to put before the political leadership of the party his perception of their strong feelings on the matter, so that the matter could be discussed, and proposals laid before the new General Council.

Mr. Chambers recalled the proposal put to him privately by the parliamentary representative for Diego Martin Central--Dr. Joseph Laquis--for some form of advertising of the party's point of view, via the newspapers.

"After a sober and long reflection," said the Prime Minister, "I came to the conclusion that I am not prepared to take the party's money to put any advertisements in any existing newspaper in Trinidad and Tobago, on that basis. It does not mean we will not advertise a dance," he added.

Mr. Chambers said he felt the call for resumption of the party newspaper was timely, and he intended putting the party's views on the matter to the political leadership as early as possible.

Public Appeal

About the need to uplift journalistic standards, the Prime Minister said he had nothing more to add to what the responsible Press has already pointed out.

If it would make any difference, he would make a public appeal "to certain elements in the Press" to feel free to write about him, since he was associated with politics, but not his wife and child, because they were not in politics.

He however felt his appeal would have no effect. His wife and daughter, he said, were of a quality of which any Prime Minister of a country could be proud.

His wife and daughter did not interfere with anybody, he declared. "They conduct themselves with dignity. I am personally proud of them. Let's leave them alone. Anything you have to say about me, feel free, because I can take care of that," he said.

In winding up, Mr. Chambers told party members:

"I would like the party, at the level of the constituencies and party groups, the new General Council and Central Executive to return to their endeavours, fortified by the spirit and mood of this convention.

"If we leave here in the spirit of this convention, go back and do your work, and so conduct our affairs that when the time comes, those who are seeking to accommodate themselves will find themselves discomfited by the PNM," he added.

Claim to Political Courage

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 12 Feb 84 p 1

[Text]

"IN the midst of Carnival preparations, and in competition with five or six calypso tents, if you look around you will agree that only the PNM is brave enough to call a convention on February 10, 11 and 12," said Prime Minister George Chambers on Friday night, as he spoke at the opening session of the PNM's 1983 annual convention.

"Others might have dances — some not so successful as others — but no one other than the PNM would be brave enough to tackle a convention at this time," he told 851 PNM delegates and observers at the Chaguaramas Convention Centre.

Mr. Chambers said it was customary for the party to postpone its annual convention in any year in which national or local

government elections were being held.

He said that the party held a special convention on July 10 last year at which the party's manifesto and list of candidates for the local government elections were held in August. As a result, in the normal course of events an annual convention would not have been expected before September 1984.

Mr. Chambers said he was considerably heartened by the fact that the General Council considered it prudent to depart from tradition and hold two annual conventions in the same year.

He reminded members of the Government's crowded agenda last year, which was the principal reason why it was difficult to hold the September 1983 convention.

He recalled the July Heads of Government Conference, the annual meeting of Commonwealth Finance Ministers in September, the Grenada crisis, the Commonwealth Prime Ministers meeting in New Delhi and the Miami Conference on the Caribbean. Additionally, there was the 1984 Budget and meetings of the National Economic Planning Commission, of which he is chairman.

In winding up, the Prime Minister and political leader advised that it was time that the PNM be on the march, and urged members to get involved in the various service clubs, as well as other groups and organisations. His aim, he said, was to liberate the "enormous talent" in the party.

CARONI INTRODUCES INCENTIVE PLAN TO CURB CANE FIRES

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 10 Feb 84 p 7

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO:

HIT by a spate of unplanned or malicious fires, Caroni Limited has introduced a plan aimed at reducing the incidents of such fires or eliminating them.

The company yesterday announced the new plan at a news conference at Brechin Castle.

Making the announcement, Mr. Teckle Skinner, acting chief executive, said that one of the incentives offered for the control and reduction of the unplanned fires was an award of \$10,000.

The company, after discussions with personnel, initiated an inter-sectional fire control competition to take place during the 1984 sugar crop.

The aim of this competition, according to Mr. Skinner, is to provide incentives to section personnel to quickly control cane fires and so reduce the acreage burnt per fire. The competition starts on February 15. Altogether 14 sections throughout the company's entire

operations are involved.

The winning section will be the one with the best improvement based on the percentage reduction in the acreage burnt per fire in 1984 as compared with the average burnt per fire in 1983. However, the total number of fires in 1984 must be less than the total number in 1983.

It was also announced that some of the other areas of incentives will include a challenge trophy for the best section, certificates of commendation for section staff, daily paid, foremen, fire engine operators and crew.

These certificates will be presented to the first, second and third place winners.

A fire control performance rating will be included in the annual assessment of supervisory personnel.

The company has discussed those proposals with the staff association and union and have got their support.

Mr. Russell Wotherham, general manager, said that up to February 3, the company recorded 402 fires.

ARMY DENIES REPORT OF REFUSAL ON GRENADA LAID TO ROBINSON

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 1 Feb 84 p 7

[Text]

PORT-OF-SPAIN, January 31
(CANA)

The Trinidad and Tobago Army today firmly denied a press report here quoting Tobago leader A.N.R. Robinson as saying that local soldiers had turned down a Government request that they intervene in last October's bloody political strife in Grenada.

Commodore Mervyn Williams, in a statement issued by the Information Ministry, described the report as "unfounded and unfortunate."

The *Trinidad Express* newspaper yesterday reported Robinson as telling a political mass meeting here last Thursday night: "I have it on good authority that they (Government) sounded out the Army on the question of going to Grenada, and the Army told them no they were not going...for the Cubans to make mince meat of them."

Commodore Williams acknowledged however that the Army here had been on alert during the Grenada crisis, which saw the execution of the island's Prime Minister and several other people as soldiers seized the Government October 19.

It was "standard military procedure," he said, for the Defence Force to go into a state of "readiness" whenever there are "hostilities" within the region of which they are a part.

"The Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force is no exception," the Commodore said.

On receipt of information of hostilities in Grenada, the Defence Force here was immediately put on stand-by and the Minister (presumably of National Security) was so informed, the Commodore said.

He added that the commanding officer of the Regiment and the Coast Guard were given "certain directives" in respect of action they should adopt to the "operational readiness" of their respective units.

"This state of readiness was maintained until given orders otherwise by higher authority," the Commodore stated.

According to Williams, the Defence Force, however, did not reduce its own internal security arrangements or patrols around this country.

"I wish to give the assurance that this Defence Force of Trinidad and Tobago is quite capable of performing any task that it is called upon to perform by the Government of this country," the Commodore stated, "and, I am sure, will give a very good account of itself in any field of endeavour."

Soldiers from the United States and several Caribbean states mounted a joint operation last October 25 to oust the military junta in Grenada that had killed Prime Minister Bishop and seized the Government. Trinidad and Tobago opposed the operation.

REPORTAGE ON FIRING OF TTT TELEVISION MANAGER

Manager Dismissed

FL111824 Bridgetown CANA in English 1708 GMT 11 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, 11 Feb (CANA)--General Manager of the state-owned Trinidad and Tobago Television Company (TTT) Roy Watts has been dismissed, company sources said today. Watts who took up the post less than one year ago after spending many years in Africa was sacked by the station's board yesterday afternoon. The sources said Watts has been replaced by John Barsotti, the TTT's programme director.

Government Blamed

FL132335 Bridgetown CANA in English 2147 GMT 13 Feb 84

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, 13 Feb (CANA)--The opposition has accused the government of political interference in the dismissal last Friday of the general manager of the state-owned Trinidad and Tobago Television (TTT).

But State Enterprises Minister Ronald Williams, under whose portfolio TTT falls, said he had nothing to do with the dismissal.

"The board (of TTT) in its wisdom hired Mr Watts and the board in its wisdom dismissed him," Williams said.

Opposition Senator Lincoln Myers, who chairs the country's Public Accounts Enterprises Committee, said he was convinced there was political interference at TTT.

Watts' dismissal was made amid reported differences over staff hirings between himself and the board and his purchase of a 90,000 dollars (one TT dollar; 41 cents U.S.) mural for the station's offices.

CSO: 3298/1121

BRIEFS

SUGAR TARGET--San Fernando: Despite unfavourable weather conditions which have affected harvesting operations recently, state-owned Caroni Limited will not reduce its sugar production target of 76,359 tonnes for 1984. The company is hoping to make up for the shortfall with improved weather, general manager Russell Wotherspoon said at Brechin Castle yesterday. He said that by this time, harvesting of canes should be near 258,000 tonnes but to date, only 157,000 tonnes have been reaped. Such low performances also affected the performances of the company's two factories, he added. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 10 Feb 84 p 7]

CSO: 3298/506

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